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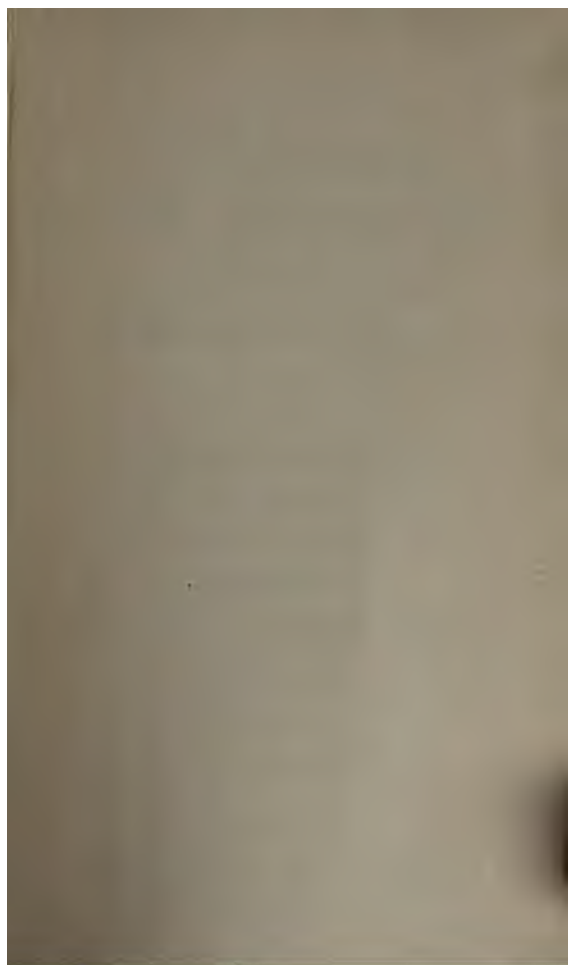
Robert Lenox?

NEW YORK.

MAYOR

KBC





1875

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE MOST CELEBRATED
VOYAGES,
TRAVELS, AND DISCOVERIES,
FROM THE
TIME OF COLUMBUS
TO THE
PRESENT PERIOD.

"Non ipsis inde tulit collectas sedula fides." Ovid.

BY WILLIAM MAJOR, LL.D.

VOL. XIV.

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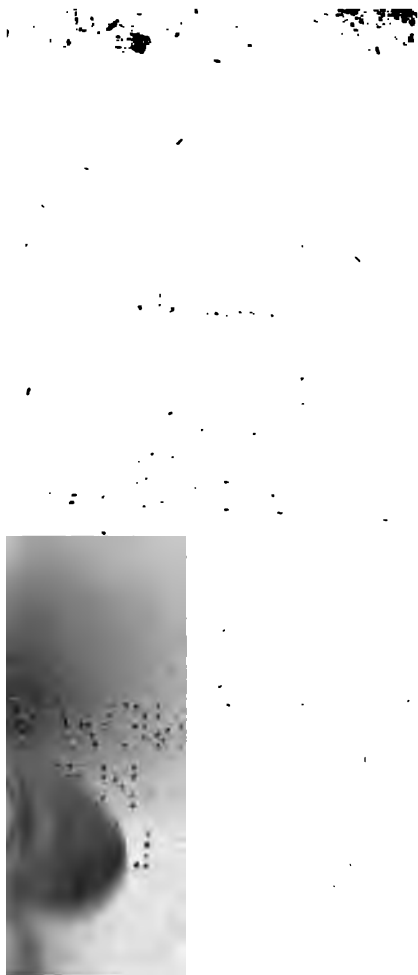
1797.



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to discover the Source of the Nile, performed
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and 1773, - - - - - Page 1

NOV 7
1795
LONDON



TRAVELS OF
JAMES BRUCE, ESQ.

INTO

A B Y S S I N I A,

TO DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THE NILE,

PERFORMED IN THE YEARS

1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, AND 1773.

THE veil of suspicion, which was early thrown over Mr. Bruce's travels, can never be removed, till some person of equal enterprise and independence pursues the same career, and retraces his steps. This we cannot speedily hope for. Few possess his resolution, and fewer still are animated with a desire of risking life and fortune in a field where novelty ceases to invite, and interest cannot stimulate.

A kind of fatality attended Bruce. He was suspected of imposture, without a motive, save vanity, to justify the charge: his pride, or, as some will think, his prudence, prevented him from entering into explanations which might have dispelled the shades of doubt; and he left the world without reaping the reward due to his discoveries, if real; or suffering that ignominy which

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t of this office, as containing all sort of
ences for making the proposed expedition.
d all his life applied unweariedly to draw-
practice of mathematics, and especially
t necessary to astronomy. The transit of
as at hand. It was certainly known that
be visible once at Algiers, and there was
son to expect it might be twice. He
d himself with a large apparatus of instru-
he completest of their kind for the obser-
It was a pleasure to Mr. Bruce to know,
as not from a solitary desert, but from
house at Algiers, he could deliberately
sures to place himself in the list of men
e of all nations, who were then animated
same object.

prepared, he set out for Italy, through
and on his arrival at Rome, he received
o proceed to Naples, there to wait his
farther commands. Having stopped a
e there, he received orders to proceed, to
session of his consulship. He returned
loss of time to Rome, and thence to Leg-
here, having embarked on board the
l man of war, he arrived at Algiers.

Mr. Bruce had spent a year at Algiers,
conversation with the natives whilst
and with his manuscripts within doors,
ified him to appear in any part of the
t without the help of an interpreter.

ss of a private nature having at this
ged him to take a voyage to Mahon, he
an Algiers, after having taken leave of
who furnished him with the necessary
, and also gave him recommendatory let-
e bey of *Tanis* and *Tripoli*. Being dis-

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.

pointed in his views at Mahon, he sailed in a small vessel from that port; and, having a fair wind, in a short time made the coast of Africa, and landed at Bona, a considerable town. It stands on a large plain, part of which seems to have been once overflowed by the sea. Its trade consists now in the exportation of wheat, when, in plentiful years, that trade is permitted by the government of Algiers. The island is famous for a coral fishery; and along the coast are immense forests of large beautiful oaks, more than sufficient to supply the necessities of all the maritime powers in the Levant, if the quality of the wood be but equal to the size and beauty of the oak.

After a favourable voyage, he arrived at Tunis, which is a large and flourishing city. The people are more civilized than in Algiers, and the government milder; but the climate is very far from being so good. Tunis is low, hot, and damp, and destitute of good water, with which Algiers is supplied from a thousand springs.

Having delivered his letters from the bey, and obtained permission to visit the country in whatever direction he should please, he set out on his journey through the kingdoms of Algiers and Tunis. He found at Dugga a large scene of ruins, among which one building was easily distinguishable. It was a large temple of the Corinthian order, all of Parian marble, the columns unadorned, the cornice highly ornamented in the very best style of sculpture. In the tympanum is an eagle flying to heaven, with a human figure upon his back, which, by the many inscriptions that are still remaining, seems to be intended for that emperor, Trajan, and the apotheosis of that emperor to be

be the subject, the temple having been erected by Adrian to that prince, his benefactor and predecessor.

From Dugga he continued the upper road to Keff, through the pleasant plains inhabited by the Welled Yagoube. He then proceeded to Hydra, a frontier place between the two kingdoms of Algiers and Tunis, as Keff is also. It is inhabited by a tribe of Arabs, whose chief is a marabout, or saint; these Arabs are immensely rich, paying no tribute either to Tunis or Algiers. The pretence for this exemption is a very singular one. By the institution of their founder, they are obliged to live upon lion's flesh for their daily food, as far as they can procure it; with this they strictly comply, and, in consideration of the utility of this their vow, they are not taxed, like the other Arabs, with payments to the state. The consequence of this life is, that they are excellent and well-armed horsemen, exceedingly bold and undaunted hunters. It is generally imagined, indeed, that these considerations, and that of their situation on the frontier, have as much influence in procuring them exemption from taxes, as the utility of their pursuits.

From Hydra he passed to the the ancient Tipasa, another Roman colony. Here is a more extensive scene of ruins; consisting of a large temple, and a four-faced triumphal arch, of the Corinthian order, in the very best taste.

From hence he continued his journey in a straight line, nearly south-east, and arrived at Medmahem, a superb pile of building, the sepulchre of Syphax, and the other kings of Numidia; and where, as the Arabs believe, were also deposited the treasures of those kings. Advancing still to

the south-east, through broken ground, very barren valleys, which produced no game, he came to Jibbel Aurez, the Aur of the middle age. This is not one but an assemblage of many of the m fteeps in Africa.

Having proceeded to the north-east Tubersoke, he returned to Dugga, thence to Tunis. His next journey th nis, was by Zowan, a high mountain, large aqueduct, which formerly conveyed to Carthage.

Having continued his journey along to Susa, through a fine country planted with olive trees, he came again to Tunis, not without disagreeable accident, but without interruption from sickness, or other cause. He took leave of the bey, and, with the accustoms usual on such occasions, again

on a very serious journey indeed to Tripoli, the first part of which was, and from thence to the Island of Rhodes. About four day's journey from Tripoli he met the Emir Hadje conducting a caravan of pilgrims from Fez and Sus, in Morocco; that is, from the Western Ocean to the banks of the Red Sea, in the Kingdom of Arabia. He was a middle aged man, of the present emperor, of a very uncommon kind of countenance. His caravan consisted of about three thousand men, and, as his pack was from twelve to fourteen thousand camels loaded with merchandise, part with wheat, barley, flour, and other kinds of food. The caravan was a disorderly, unarmed pack; and was accompanied by the emperor's horsemen, though but fifteen

came up with them in the dawn of the morning, they shewed great signs of trepidation, and were already flying in confusion. When informed who they were, their fears ceased; and, after the usual manner of cowards, they became extremely insolent.

Being arrived at Tripoli, he sent an English servant from thence to Smyrna with his books, drawings, and supernumerary instruments, retaining only extracts from such authors as might be necessary for him in the Pentapolis, or other parts of the Cyrenaicum. He then crossed the Gulf of Sydra, formerly known by the name of the Syrtis Major, and arrived at Bengazi, the ancient Berenice, built by Ptolemy Philadelphus.

The brother of the bey of Tripoli, who commanded here, was a young man, as weak in understanding as he was in health. All the province was in extreme confusion. Two tribes of Arabs, occupying the territory to the west of the town, who, in ordinary years, and in time of peace, were the sources of its wealth and plenty, had, by the mismanagement of the bey, entered into a violent quarrel. The tribe that lived most to the westward, and which was reputed the weakest, had beat the most numerous that was nearest the town, and driven them within its walls. The inhabitants of Bengaz had, for a year before been labouring under a severe famine, and by this accident about four thousand persons, of all ages and sexes, were forced in upon them, when perfectly destitute of every necessary. Ten or twelve people were found dead every night in the streets; and life was said in many to be supported by food that human nature shudders at the thoughts of. *Impatient to fly from these scenes, Mr*

and the owner, who had likewise been a sailor, presently unlash'd the largest boat, and all three got down into her, followed by a multitude of people whom they could not hinder; and there was, indeed, something that bordered on cruelty, in preventing poor people from using the same means that they had done for preserving their lives. Our traveller had stripp'd himself to a short under-waistcoat and linen drawers; a silk sash, or girdle was wrapt round him; a pencil, small pocket-book, and ^{some} were in the breast-pocket of his waistcoat. ^{Two} Moorish and two English servants follow'd him; the rest, more wife, remained on board.

They were not twice the length of the boat from the vessel, before a wave very nearly fill'd the boat. A howl of despair from those that were in her shew'd their helpless state, and that they were conscious of a danger they could not shun. Mr. Bruce saw the fate of all was to be decided by the very next wave that was rolling in; and, apprehensive that some woman, child, or helpless man, would lay hold of him, and sink him down, he cried to his servants, both Arabic and English, "We are all lost; if you follow me:" he then let himself down the crest of the wave. Whether that, or the striking of the boat, he knows not, as he went to make his distance as great as possible. He was a good, strong, and practis'd swimmer, in the flower of life, full of health, and to exercise and fatigue of every kind. However, which might have availed much afterwards, was not sufficient when he call'd for help. He received a violent blow upon the head from the eddy wave and reflux, which

seem'd

med as given him by a large branch of a tree, thick cord, or some elastic weapon. It threw him on his back, made him swallow a considerable quantity of water, and had then almost suffocated him.

Our traveller avoided the next wave, by dipping his head, and letting it pass over; but found himself breathless, exceedingly weary and exhausted. The land, however, was before him, and close at hand. A large wave floated him up, and had the prospect of escape still nearer, and endeavoured to prevent himself from going back to the surf. His heart was strong, but strength was apparently failing, by being involuntarily tossed about, and struck on the face and breast by the violence of the ebbing wave: it now seemed as if nothing remained but to give up the struggle, and resign to his destiny. Before he did so, he sunk to sound if he could touch the ground, and found that he reached the sand with his feet, though the water was still rather deeper than his mouth. The success of this experiment infused into him ten-fold strength; and he strove manfully, taking advantage of floating only with the influx of the wave, and preserving his strength in the struggle against the ebb, which, by sinking and touching the ground, he now made more easy. At last, finding his hands and knees upon the sands, he fixed his nails into it, and obstinately resisted being carried back at all, crawling a few feet when the sea had retired. He had perfectly lost his recollection and understanding; and after creeping so far as to be out of the reach of the sea, he supposes he fainted, for, from that time, he was totally insensible of every surrounding object.

critical situation, the Arabs
miles from the shore, came
plunder the vessel. One o
n ashore, there was one ye
s, which scarcely appeared with
e water, and every moment seeme
All the people were now take
and those only lost who perished in
What first awakened Mr. Bruce from
blance of death, was a blow with the
a lance, shod with iron, upon the jund
neck with the same. This prod
lent sensation or pain, but it was a me
the blow was not with the point; for
short waistcoat, which had been made
the sash and drawers all in the Turki
made the Arabs believe that he was a
after many blows, kicks, and curses,
him of the little clothing he had, an
naked. They used the rest in the sam
and then went to their boats to lo
drowned bodies.

After having received this discipli
walked, or crawled up among some w
hillocks, where he sat down and concea
as much as possible. The weather was
but the evening promised to be cooler
fast drawing on; there was great da
apprehended if he approached the tent
women were while he was naked;
case it was very probable he would rece
bastinado, something worse than the fi
was so confused, that he had not rec
could speak to them in their own lan
it now only came into his mind, that
rish, in imitation of Turkish, whic

uttered to him while he was beating and
ing him, he took him for a Turk, and to this
ke he probably owed his ill treatment.

elderly looking man, and a number of
g Arabs, came up to him where he was sit-

He gave them the salute, Salam Alicum !
a was only returned by one young man, in a
as if he wondered at his impudence. The
an then asked him, whether he was a Turk,
that he had to do there ? He replied he was
ark, but a poor Christian physician, a dervise
vent about the world seeking to do good for
ake, was then flying from famine, and going
eece to get bread. He then asked him if he

Cretan. He said, he had never been in
, but came from Tunis, and was returning
t town, having lost every thing he had in
ipwreck of that vessel. He said this in so
iring a tone, that there was no doubt left
the Arab that the fact was true. A ragged,
baracan was immediately thrown over him,
e was ordered up to a tent, in the end of
stood a long spear thrust through it, the
an mark of sovereign distinction.

e shekh of the tribe, who being in peace
the Bey of Bengazi, and also with the Shekh
olometa, after many questions, ordered our
ler a plentiful supper, of which all his ser-
partook, none of them having perished. A
tude of consultations followed on their com-
s, of which he freed himself in the best man-
e could, alleging the loss of all his medi-

er staying two days among them, the shekh
ed to them all that had been taken from
and mounting them upon camels, and giv-



Robert
(NEW)

hilling of the sacks, or the inattention of the fishermen, than take the pains to watch one hour at the flowing of the tide for excellent fish.

The captain of this little vessel lost no time. He had done his business well; and though he was returning for another cargo, yet he cheerfully offered Mr. Bruce what part of his money he should want. They then sailed with a fair wind, and in four or five days easy weather landed at Canea, a considerable fortified place at the west end of the island of Crete. Here our traveller was taken dangerously ill, occasioned by his extraordinary exertions in the sea of Ptolomea; nor was he in the least the better from the beating he had received, of which he very long afterwards bore the marks.

From Canea he sailed for Rhodes, and there met with his books; he then proceeded to Castellazzo, on the coast of Caramania, and was there credibly informed, that there were very magnificent remains of ancient buildings, a short way from the shore, on the opposite continent. Caramania is a part of Asia Minor yet unexplored. But his illness increasing, it was impossible to execute, or take any measures to secure protection, or do the business safely; so he was forced to relinquish this discovery to some more fortunate traveller.

Mr. Bruce, during his stay at Canea, wrote by way of France, and again while at Rhodes by way of Smyrna, to particular friends both in London and France, informing them of his disastrous situation, and desiring them to send him a moveable quadrant or sextant, a time-keeper, a stop-watch, a reflecting telescope, and one of Dolland's achromatic

matic ones, with several other articles he was then in much want.

Our traveller received from Paris much about the same time, and as dictated by the same person, nearly the same, which was this, that every body was making instruments for L.

A number of foreign astronomers, who were completed had been bought, and a considerable, indeed a great number had that could be

asked himself much how he could be raised against the power of the world as he had the power to die to sacrifice his life to pain and danger for the benefit of the world. To infir-

ments to the world to be treated as a weak, to infir-

nus. Upon that he returned to Tripoli in Syria, and after some time set out for Aleppo, travelling northward along the plain of Jeune, betwixt Mount Lebanon and the sea. He visited the ancient Byblus, and bathed with pleasure in the river Adonis. All here is classic ground. He saw several considerable ruins of Grecian architecture all very much defaced.

Having passed Latikea, he came to Antioch, and afterwards to Aleppo. The fever and ague, which he had first caught at Bengazi, had returned upon him with great violence, after passing one night encamped in the mulberry gardens behind Sidon. It had returned in very slight paroxysms several times, but laid hold of him with more than ordinary violence on his arrival at Aleppo, where he came just in time to the house of Mr. Belville, a French merchant, to whom he was addressed for his credit. Had it not been for the kind attention and skilful advice he here met with, it is probable his travels would have ended at Aleppo.

Mr. Bruce, having perfectly recovered his health, began to think of his journey to Palmyra. He set out at a time appointed for Hamath, where he found his conductor, and proceeded to Haffia. The river which passes through the plains where they cultivate their best tobacco, is the Orontes; it was so swollen with rain, which had fallen in the mountains, that the ford was no longer visible. Stopping at two miserable huts inhabited by a base set, called Turcomans, our traveller asked the master of one of them to shew him the ford, which he very readily undertook to do, and Mr. Bruce went, for the length of some
C 3 yards.

that the one seemed to touch the other, all of fine proportions, all of agreeable forms, all composed of white stones, which at that distance appeared like marble. At the end of it stood the palace of the sun, a building worthy to close so magnificent a scene.

Mr. Bruce proceeded from Palmyra to Balbec, distant about one hundred and thirty miles, and arrived the same day that Emir Yousef had reduced the town and settled the government, and was decamping from it on his return home. This was the luckiest moment possible for our traveller, as he was the emir's friend, and had obtained liberty to do there what he pleased; and to this indulgence was added the great convenience of the emir's absence, so that he was not troubled by the observance of any court-ceremony or attendance, or teased with impertinent questions.

Balbec is pleasantly situated in a plain on the east of Anti-Libanus, is finely watered, and abounds in gardens. It is about fifty miles from Hama, and about thirty from the nearest sea-port, which is the situation of the ancient Byblus. The interior of the great temple of Balbec, supposed to be that of the sun, surpasses any thing at Palmyra.

Passing by Tyre, from curiosity only, Mr. Bruce went to be a mournful witness of the truth of a prophecy, that Tyre, the queen of nations, should be a rock for fishers to dry their nets on. He found wretched fishermen, with miserable nets, just given over their occupation with very little success, he engaged them, at the expence of their nets, to drag in those places where they thought hell-fish might be caught, in hopes to have brought out one of the famous purple-fish. He did

our traveller arrives at Sidon in good health.

Having at last determined to prosecute his long intended expedition to discover the Source of Nile, he sailed from Sidon, on the 15th of July 1708, bound for the Island of Cyprus, the wind being favourable and the weather clear and he

On the 10th, at dawn of day, our traveller found a high hill, which from its particular form, described by Strabo, he took for Mount Olympus. It is very singular, that Cyprus should be so long undiscovered; ships had been used in the Mediterranean one thousand seven hundred years before Christ; yet, though only a day's sailing from the continent of Asia on the north and east, and more from that of Africa on the south, not known at the building of Tyre, a little before the Trojan war, that is, five hundred years ago, ships had been passing to and fro in the Mediterranean seas.

There are many medals, though very few of them, dug up in Cyprus; silver ones, of various

17th of June, they left Lernica, about
 six in the afternoon, and on the 20th of
 July in the morning, our traveller had a
 prospect of Alexandria rising from the sea.
 The first view of the city, the mixture of old
 objects, such as the Column of Pompey, with
 Moorish towers and steeples, raise our ex-
 pectations of the consequence of the ruins we are
 about to see. At the moment we are in port, the illu-
 minations and we distinguish the immense Hercu-
 les of ancient times, now few in number,
 ill-imagined, ill-constructed, and imper-
 manent, of the several barbarous masters of
 Egypt in later ages.

At Alexandria has often changed masters
 since the time of Cæsar. It was at last destroyed
 by the Arabians and Cypriots, after the release
 of the Jews. There is nothing beautiful or plea-
 sant in modern Alexandria, but a handsome
 number are a very active and intelligent number
 who live upon the miserable remnants of
 the city, which made its glory in the first times.
 It is only inhabited, and there is a tradition
 among the natives, that, more than once, it has
 been on the point of being abandoned altogether, and
 removed to Rosetto or Cairo; but that they have
 been withheld by the opinion of divers saints from
 Mecca who have assured them, that Mecca being
 destroyed, as they think it must be by the Rus-
 sians, Alexandria is then to become the holy place,
 and Mahomet's body is to be transported

At Bruce's arrival at Alexandria, he found
 a plague had raged in that city and
 neighbourhood from the beginning of March,
 two days only before their arrival, peo-
 ple

gun to open their houses and communicate each other; but it was no matter, St. was past, the miraculous nocta, or dew, and every body went about their ordi-
 in safety, and without fear. Here
 received his instruments, and found
 od condition.

eller being now prepared for any en-
 out for Rosetto. The journey to this
 ways performed by land, as the mouth
 ch of the Nile leading to the Rosetto,
 Bogaz, is very shallow and dangerous
 often tedious. The journey by land
 ted dangerous, and people travel bur-
 arms, which they are determined ne-

stands upon that branch of the Nile
 called the Bolbutt Branch, and is about
 from the sea. It is a large, clean, neat
 lage, upon the eastern side of the Nile.
 three miles long, much frequented by
 d religious Mahometans; among these
 onsiderable number of merchants, it
 entrepot between Cairo and Alexan-
ice versa; here too the merchants have
 rs, who superintend and watch over
 ndise which passes the Bogaz to and
 . There are many gardens, and much
 out Rosetto; the ground is low, and
 g the moisture it imbibes from the
 of the Nile.

Oth of June, Mr. Bruce embarked for
 re he arrived in the beginning of Ju-
 ended to the very hospitable house of
 Bertran, to whom he imparted his re-
 pursuing his journey to Abyssinia.

The

ness of the intention seemed to strike greatly, on which account they endeavour-
ed to persuade him against it, but,
being resolved, they offered kindly their most
services.

part of Cairo, in which the French are
is exceedingly commodious, and fit for
it. It consists of one long street, where
merchants of that nation live together. It
at one end, by large gates, where there is
and these are kept constantly close in the
the plague. At the other end is a large
pleasantly kept, in which there are several
walks and seats. All the enjoyment that
they can hope for, among this vile people,
is to get to peace and quiet; nobody seeks

are perhaps four hundred inhabitants in
do not have absolute power; and administer
they call justice, in their own way, and ac-
cording to their own views. But fortunately, in
his time, this many-headed monster was
there was but one Ali Bey, and there
was neither inferior nor superior jurisdiction,
but by his officers only. This happy
state did not last long. In order to be a bey,
one must have been a slave, and bought
at a market. Every bey has a great
number of servants, slaves to him, as he was to
his forefathers; these are his guards, and these he
places in his household, according as
they are qualified.

very extraordinary, to find a race of men
all agree to leave their succession to
in preference to their own children, for
many ages; and that no one should ever
have

have attempted to make his son succeed either in dignity or estate, in preference to a whom he has bought for money like a beast.

The instant that Mr. Bruce arrived at was perhaps the only one in which he ever have been allowed, single and unprotected was, to have made his intended journey. A known in Europe by various narratives of transactions of his life, after having undergone many changes of fortune, and been banished his rivals from his capital, at last had enjoyed satisfaction of a return, and of making himself absolute in Cairo.

After a variety of circumstances of little consequence to the reader, Mr. Bruce was admitted into an audience of the bey. He was sitting on a large sofa, covered with crimson cloth of his turban, his girdle, and the head of his dagger all thick covered with fine brilliants; one of his turban, that served to support a sprig of brimstone also, was among the largest Mr. Bruce had ever seen. The bey entered into discourse with him concerning the Russian and Turkish wars, and conversed some time with him on that subject.

Two or three nights afterwards, the bey sent for him again. It was near eleven o'clock when he got admittance to him. He met the janizaries, going out from him, and a number of his domestics. As Mr. Bruce did not know how to pass him without ceremony, which is not customary for any person to do. When ever he moved, as he was then just going to the power of life and death, with the bey in Cairo and its neighbourhood. Our traveller just at the threshold of the bey's people who he was

answered, "It is Hakim Englese," the English philosopher or physician. He asked Mr. Bruce Turkish, in a very polite manner, if he would see him, for he was not well? He answered him in Arabic, "Yes, whenever he could, but could not then stay, as he had received a message that the bey was waiting." He answered in Arabic, "no, no; go, for God's sake go; I will do for me."

The bey was sitting, leaning forward, with a paper in one hand, and reading a small slip of paper, which he held close to his face. He seemed to have little light, or weak eyes; nobody was near him: his people had been all dismissed, or following the janizary Aga out.

He did not seem to observe Mr. Bruce till he came close upon him, and started, when he said "Ah!" He told him he came upon his messenger.

He said "I thank you; did I send for you?" Without giving him leave to reply, went on, "I am true, I did so," and fell to reading his paper.

After this was over, he complained that he had been ill, that he vomited immediately after dinner, though he ate moderately; that his stomach was not yet settled, and was afraid some mischief had been given him to do him mischief.

Our traveller felt his pulse, which was low and weak; but very little feverish. He desired he should order his people to look if his meat was well dried in copper properly tinned; he assured him he was in no danger, and insinuated that he thought he had been guilty of some excess before; at which he smiled, and said to one who was standing by, "Afrite! Afrite!" he is a devil! a devil! After giving some simple directions, our traveller retired.

As Mr. Bruce's favour was
established by frequent
Risk, the bey's secretary, to procure
tory letters of recommendation to Sheikh
to the governor of Syene, Ibrim, and
Upper Egypt. He procured also the
the janizaries, to these three last places
garrisons are from that body at Cai
they call their Port. He had also let
Ali Bey to the Bey of Suez, to the Sultan
Mecca, to the Naybe (so they call the
of Masuah, and to the King of Sennaar
minister for the time being.

Having obtained all his letters and
as well from the patriarch as from the
about preparing for his journey.

On the other side of the Nile, from
Geeza; and about eleven miles beyond
the pyramids, called the Pyramids of
description of which is in every body's

It is very singular, that for such a time
pyramids have been known, travellers
tend rather to follow the report of the
than to make use of their own eyes;
been a constant belief, that the stones of
these pyramids have been brought from
bian mountains, though any one who
the pains to remove the sand on the top
will find the solid rock there hewn into
the roof of the large chamber, where
phagus stands, as also in the top of the
the gallery, as you go up into that chamber
large fragments of the rock, affording
able proof, that those pyramids
ks, standing where they now
them, the most proper for the

were chosen for the body of the pyramid, and the others hewn into steps, to serve for their superstructure, and the exterior parts of them*.

Mr. Bruce having now provided every thing necessary, and taken leave of his very indulgent friends, who had great apprehensions that he and his companions would never return; and fearing lest they should miss the etesian winds, he secured a boat to carry them to Fushout, the residence of Hamam, the shekh of Upper Egypt.

This sort of vessel is called a Canja, and is one of the most commodious used on any river, being safe, and expeditious at the same time. That on which they embarked was about one hundred feet from stern to stem, with two masts, main and foremast, and two monstrous latine sails; the mainsail yard being about two hundred feet in length.

A certain kind of robber, peculiar to the Nile, is constantly on the watch to rob boats, in which they suppose the crew are off their guard. They generally approach the boat when it is calm, either swimming under water, or when it is dark, upon goat skins; after which they mount with the utmost silence, and take away whatever they can lay their hands on. They are not very fond, it seems, of meddling with vessels whereon they see Franks, or Europeans, on account of their firearms.

It was the 12th of December, when they embarked on the Nile at Bulac, on board the canja. At first they had the precaution to apply to their friend Risk concerning their captain, Hagi Hassan Abou Cussi, and they obliged him to give his

* This appears a singular idea, though it may be partially just.

son, Mahomet, in security for his behaviour towards them. There was nothing so much desired as to be at some distance from their voyage. Incivility and extortion as the consequence in this detestable place you are about to leave it.

The wind being contrary, they were to advance against the stream, by having drawn with a rope. They advanced a few to two convents of Cophts, called D. Here they stopped to pass the night, had a fine view of the pyramids of Geeza at Ra, and being then in sight of a prodigious number of others built of white clay, and so far into the desert to the south-west.

On the side of the Nile, opposite to this a little farther to the south, was a tribe encamped. These were subject to Cairo then at peace with its government. They were called Howadat, being a part of the large tribe that possesses the Isthmus and from that go up between the Red Sea and the mountains that bound the east part of the country of Egypt. They reach to the length of the Nile where they border upon another large tribe called Ababdé, which extends from thence to Nubia. Both these are what were called Shepherds, and are constantly at war with each other.

Mr. Bruce now bargained with the Howadat to furnish him with horses. He went to Metrahenny, or Mohannan, where one Mimf had stood, a large city, the capital of Egypt. All this was executed with great secrecy. Early in the morning the shekh of the Howadat had passed at Minié, where there is a fine

Nile being very deep, and attended our traveller with five horsemen, and a spare horse for himself, at Metrahenny, south of Miniel, where there is a great plantation of palm-trees.

On the 13th, in the morning, our travellers let out their vast sails, and passed a very considerable village called Turra, on the east side of the river, and Shekh Atman, a small village, consisting of about thirty houses, on the west.

The Nile here is about a quarter of a mile broad; and there cannot be the smallest doubt, in any person disposed to be convinced, that this is by far the narrowest part of Egypt yet seen; for it is certainly less than half a mile between the foot of the mountain and the Lybian shore.

Having gained the western edge of the palm-trees at Mohannan, our travellers had a fair view of the pyramids at Geeza, which lie in a direction nearly south-west. They saw three large granite pillars south-west of Mohannan, and a piece of a broken chest or cistern of granite; but no obelisks, or stones with hieroglyphics, and they thought the greatest part of the ruins seemed to point that way, or more southerly.

These, their conductor said, were the ruins of Mimf, or Memphis, the ancient seat of the Pharaohs, kings of Egypt; and that there was another Mimf, far down in the Delta, by which he meant Menouf, below Terane and Batn el Baccara.

Mr. Bruce, perceiving now that he could get no farther intelligence, returned with his kind guide, whom he gratified for his pains, and they parted content with each other.

It was near four o'clock in the afternoon when they returned to their boatmen. The wind was fair and fresh, when, in great spirits, they hoisted their

their main and fore-sails, leaving the point Metrahenny. They saw the Pyramids of Sacra still south-west of them; several villages both sides of the river, but very poor and miserable; and part of the ground on the east had been overflowed, yet was not sown; a proof of the oppression and distress the husbandmen suffers in the neighbourhood of Cairo, by avarice and disagreement of the different officers of that motley incomprehensible government.

After sailing about two miles, they saw three men fishing in a very extraordinary manner and situation. They were on a raft of palm branches supported on a float of clay jars, made fast together. The form was triangular, like the base of a pyramid; two men, each provided with a casting-net, stood at the two corners, and threw their net into the stream together; the third stood at the third corner, which was foremost, and drew in his net the moment the other two drew theirs out of the water. And this they repeated at perfect time, and with surprising regularity. The rais thought our travellers wanted to see them fish, and letting go his mainsail, ordered the board with a great tone of superiority.

They were in a moment alongside of the boat, and one of them came on board, lashing his



Pl. 11.

Fig. 11.

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nire their success, in a violent stream of water; such as the Nile; for the river is not twelve feet deep where they were, and the current very strong.

Fishers offered willingly to take Mr. Bruce in the raft to teach him; but his curiosity was not so far. They said their fishing was very accidental, and in the course of their business, which was selling these potter earthen ware, after having carried the raft with them up the Nile, they untie, sell them at the market, and carry the produce home in money, or in goods upon their backs.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, they came to the mouth of an island; there were several palm-trees on both sides of them; and the Nile was overflowed by the Nile, and cultivated. They then came to Halouan, an island divided into a number of small ones, by canals cut through it, and, under different names, they still reach very far up the Nile. Mr. Bruce landed to see if there were any of the olive tree, which Strabo says there is, but without success. Our travellers observed, however, that there had been such a cause, opposite to one of the divisions in this large island is broken, there was a small island called Zeitoon, or the Olive Tree.

On the 15th of December, the weather being calm, they left the north end of the island. Their course was due south, the line of the Nile. Three miles farther they passed Woodan, a collection of villages, all going by that name on the east.

The Nile is here but shallow, and narrow, not more than a quarter of a mile broad, and three feet deep.

feet deep; owing, as he supposed, to the force made by the island, in the middle of the current, and by a bend it makes, turning the sand brought down by the flood. The mountains here come down till within a few miles of Suf el Woodan, for so the village is called. They were told of some ruins to the westward of this, but only rubbish, neither architecture standing.

The wind still freshening, they passed several villages on each side, all surrounded by palm-trees, verdant and pleasant; but they gave no idea of sameness and want of variety. Every traveller must have felt who has seen the placid, muddy, green-banked river of the Nile. The Nile, however, is here very broad, the water deep, and the current strong.

They passed with great velocity Mabarak, Cubabac, Nizelet Omar, Raab, then Racca Seguiet, and came in sight of a large village at some distance from the river. All the valley here was green, the prospect beautiful, and the river deep. Still the prospect that pleased; for the water that was sown to the sandy ascent of the mountains, was but a narrow stripe of this of a mile broad, and the mountains which bounded this narrow valley, were gritty, sandy, and uneven, and perfectly bare of vegetation.

They kept, as usual, a very good watch all night, which passed without disturbance. The day, the 17th, was exceedingly hot in the morning, though it cleared about noon. It was, however, sufficient to shew to the observation of an author, who saw

its no fogs, and in the course of the voyage often saw other examples of the fallacy of assertion.

18th, about eight in the morning, they set out to get on their way; the wind was from the south.

After passing Comadree, the Nile is again crossed by another fragment of the island, and they went a little to the westward. On the east is the village of Sidi Ali el Courani. It has only two villages belonging to it, and on that account a deserted appearance; but the wheat upon the banks was five inches high, and more abundant than any they had seen. The mountains on the east side came down to the banks of the Nile, and were bare, white, and sandy, and there was on this side no appearance of villages. The Nile here is about a quarter of a mile broad, or a little more. It should seem it was the Antient Civitas of Ptolemy; but neither night nor day could Mr. Bruce get an instant for a view, on account of thin white clouds, which confused (for they scarce could be said to be) the heavens continually.

They now passed a convent of Copts, with a plantation of palms. It was a miserable building, with a dome, and stood quite alone. Four miles from this was the village of el Arab, consisting of poor huts. Here were large plantations of sugar-cane, the first yet seen; they were then loading with them to carry them to Cairo. Mr. Bruce procured from them as many as he desired. They were about an inch and a quarter in diameter, and they were cut in round pieces about three feet long; and, after having been slit, they were

The wind was high, blowing strongly and fast; the current was strong at 50 yards, and the violence with which it struck the water was terrible. The Mr. Brown, that day, should have stayed in, if it had not been, that he wanted to go with the family.

They passed by a number of villages
western shore, the eastern showing to be
very unimportant: and after some time they
came to a village called Binda, where they
saw the most ruins of the ancient city of A
mult in India.

Mr. Iron asked for the whole lot of them were in the place. He said that they were composed of very bad Turks, very bad and very bad Christians: that several dozen were among them lately, who had been converted by being better and quieter than the rest. The Nazian geographer informs us it was from this town Pharaoh brought his sons, to compare their powers with those of Moses; an anecdote worthy of that great man.

Our traveller told the rais, that he must
necessity, go ashore. He did not seem to be
the expedition: but stood directly under
the. In a short time they arrived at the l

ornice, frieze, and architrave, all entire, and very richly ornamented; thick trees hid what was behind. The columns were of the largest size, and cut; the capitals Corinthian, and in all appearance entire. He saw indistinctly, also, a triumphal arch or gate of the town, in the very same style; and some blocks of very white shining stone, which seemed to be alabaster.

Mr. Bruce, and those who remained with him in the boat, were on a sudden alarmed by hearing a violent dispute between some who went on shore and the inhabitants. Presently three shots were fired into the boat, when Mr. Bruce cried out in Arabic, "Infidels, thieves, and robbers! come on, or we shall presently attack you:" upon which he immediately fired a ship-blunderbuss with pistol small bullets, but with little elevation, among the bushes, so as not to touch them. The three or four men that were nearest fell flat upon their faces, and slid away among the bushes on their bellies, and he saw no more of them.

They were no sooner out of their reach, than he rais'd, filling his pipe, and looking very grave, told Mr. Bruce to thank God, that our traveller was in the vessel with such a man as he was, as it was owing to that only he escaped from being murdered ashore. "Certainly, Hailan," said Mr. Bruce, "under God, the way of escaping from being murdered on land, is never to go out of the boat; but don't you think that my blunderbuss was as effectual a mean as your holiness?"

Some of the party were violently exasperated, and nothing would serve them but to go in again near the shore, and fire all the guns and blunderbusses among the people. But, besides that Mr.

Bruce had no inclination of that kind, very loth to frustrate the attempts of a future traveller, who might add this to the remains of architecture preserved already.

At Reremont there are a great number of water wheels, to draw the water for the fields which belong to Christians. The water is brought up from the river runs down the plantations, below or behind the town, and is emptied on the banks above; a picture here the descent from the mountains is an optic fallacy, as a former writer says.

They passed Ashmounein, probably the ancient Latopolis, a large town, which gives the name to the province, where there are magnificent remains of Egyptian architecture; and after that to Melawé the residence of the cacheff, where met Aga was there at that time with the pasha of Cairo; he had taken Miniet, and, by the assistance of Shekh Hamam, the great Arab, of Upper Egypt, he kept all the people on the west side of the river in allegiance to Ali Bey.

Our traveller here received about a quart of brandy, and a jar of lemons and oranges preserved in honey, both very agreeable. There was also lamb, and some garden-stuffs. Among the meats was some horse-raddish preserved in vinegar, which certainly, though it might be good for some, was very unpleasant. Mr. Bruce had a good square piece of it, well wrapped in paper, and gave it to the rais, who coughed and spit half an hour after, crying he was poisoned.

They passed the Mollé, a small village, where there is a great number of acacia trees, intermixed with plantations of palms. Their occasion

ing variety, not only from the difference of the shape of the tree, but also from the colour and diversity of the green.

On the 20th, early in the morning, they again set sail, and passed several villages, till at length they reached Tama, where the wind being contrary, Mr. Bruce went on shore. It is a small town, surrounded, like the rest, with groves of palm-trees. The Nile is here full of sandy islands.

The 21st, in the morning, they came to Gawa, where is the second scene of ruins of Egyptian architecture, after leaving Cairo. Mr. Bruce immediately went on shore, and found a small temple of three columns in front, with the capitals entire, and the columns in several separate pieces. They seemed by that, and their slight proportions, to be of the most modern of that species of building; but the whole were covered with hieroglyphics, representing, as usual, the hawk and the serpent, the man sitting with the dog's head, with the perch, or measuring rod; in the hand, the hemisphere and globes with wings, and leaves of the banana-tree, as is supposed, in the other. The temple is filled with rubbish and dung of cattle, which the Arabs bring in here to shelter them from the heat.

On the 22d, at night, they arrived at Achmim. Mr. Bruce landed with his quadrant and instruments, with a view of observing an eclipse of the moon; but, immediately after her rising, clouds and mists so effectually covered the whole heavens, that it was not even possible to catch a star of any size passing the meridian. Achmim is a very considerable place.

The 24th of December, they left Achmim, and came to the village Shekh Ali on the west, two miles

have a special care that no mischief befall
and likewise a very pressing letter to Sbel
mam, at Purlhout, in whose territory they

Dendera is a considerable town at this
covered with thick groves of palm-trees, th
that Juvenal describes to have been in hi
A mile south of the town are ruins of tw
pics, one of which is so much buried
ground, that little of it is to be seen ; t
other, which is by far the most magnific
entire, and accessible on every side. It
covered with hieroglyphics, both within an
out, of every figure, simple and compound
ever has been published or called an hi
phic ; all in relief.

The form of the building is an oblong
the ends of which are occupied by two
apartments, or vestibules, supported by me
columns, likewise covered over with hierogl
Some are in form of men and beasts ; som
to be the forms of instruments of sacrific

imagined, and worse executed, fold drapery between them. Above these is a large oblong square block, still larger than the capitals, with four flat fronts, disposed like pannels, that is, with a kind of square border round the edges, while the faces and fronts are filled with hieroglyphics; as are the walls and ceilings of every part of the temple. Between these two apartments in the extremities, are three other apartments, resembling the first, in every respect, only that they are smaller. The whole building is of common white stone, from the neighbouring mountains.

The top of the temple is flat, the spouts to carry off the water are vast heads of sphinxes; the globes with wings, and the two serpents, with a kind of shield or breast-plate between, are here frequently repeated, such as are to be seen on the Carthaginian medals.

The hieroglyphics have been painted over, and great part of the colouring yet remains upon the stones; red, in all its shades, especially that dark dusky colour, called Tyrian purple; yellow, very fresh; sky-blue; and green of different shades.

A little before our traveller came to Dendera, they saw the first crocodile, and afterwards hundreds, lying upon every island, like large flocks of cattle; yet the inhabitants of Dendera drive their beasts of every kind into the river, and they stand there for hours. The girls and women too, that come to fetch water in jars, stand up to their knees in the water for a considerable time; and, if we may guess from what happens, their danger is full as little as their fear; for none of them, as far as our travellers could learn, had been bitten by a crocodile. However, if the Denderites were as keen and expert hunters of crocodiles,

as these infernals tell us they found there is, surely, no part of the Nile which would have better sport than here, and before their own eyes.

Mr. Bruce, having viewed the ruins, got to Fushout, and went to the convent of Friars, who, like those of Adhiman, are order of the reformed Franciscans.

Fushout stands in a large and cultivated It is five miles over to the foot of the mountains all sown with wheat. Here are, likewise, flocks of sugar-canes. The town is said to have above ten thousand people; but this statement is perhaps rather exaggerated.

While our travellers were at Fushout happened a very extraordinary phenomenon: it rained the whole night, and till about ~~about~~ next morning; when the people became very apprehensive lest the whole town be destroyed. It is a perfect prodigy to have rain here; and the prophets said it portended the fall of government, which was justly soon afterwards; and at that time indeed extremely probable.

They left Fushout the 7th of January, early in the morning. They had not hired a boat farther than Fushout; but the good will which subsisted between Mr. Bruce and the Haffar, made an accommodation very easy to carry them farther. He now agreed to carry them to Syene and down the Nile for five hundred pounds, but, if he behaved well, he expected a trifling gratuity. "And if you behave ill, Haffar," said Mr. Bruce, "what do you think you deserve?"

"To be hanged," said he, "I deserve, and I shall be."

The wind at first was but scant; however, it freshened up towards noon, when they passed a large town called How, on the west side of the Nile. About four o'clock in the afternoon they arrived at El Gourni, a small village, a quarter of a mile distant from the Nile. It has in it a temple of old Egyptian architecture. Mr. Bruce thinks, that this, and the two adjoining heaps of ruins, which are at the same distance from the Nile, probably might have been part of the ancient Thebes.

Nothing remains of the ancient Thebes but four prodigious temples, all of them in appearance more ancient, but neither so entire, nor so magnificent, as those of Dendera. The temples at Medinet Tabu are the most elegant of these. The hieroglyphics are cut to the depth of half-a-foot, in some places.

A number of robbers, who much resemble our gypsies, live in the holes of the mountains above Thebes. They are all out-laws, and punished with death if elsewhere found. Osman Bey, an ancient governor of Girgé, unable to suffer any longer the disorders committed by these people, ordered a quantity of dried faggots to be brought together, and, with his soldiers, took possession of the face of the mountain, where the greatest number of these wretches were: he then ordered all their caves to be filled with this dry brushwood, to which he set fire, so that most of them were destroyed; but they have since recruited their numbers, without changing their manners.

About half a mile north of El Gourni, are the magnificent, stupendous sepulchres of Thebes. The mountains of the Thebaid come close behind the town; they are not connected with each other
in

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.

ges, but stand insulated upon their
red of these, it is said, are excavat
ral, and a variety of other apartn
xor, and Carnac, which is a mile a
elow it, are by far the largest and
since, es of ruins in Egypt, much
tensive stupendous than those of T
Dendera put together.

There are two obelisks here of gre
and in good preservation. The pavem
is made to receive the shadow, is to
horizontal, it might still be used in ob

At Carnac they saw the remains of
rows of sphinxes, one on the right hand
on the left, with their heads chiefly b
and, a little lower, a number as it thou
termini. They were composed of bas
a dog or lion's head, of Egyptian sculpi
stood in lines likewise, as if intended
nue to some principal building.

On the 17th, our travellers left I
failed with a very fair wind, and in g
In the evening, they came to an anc
eastern shore nearly opposite to Esne
the ancient Latopolis, and has very gre
particularly a large temple, which
whole of it is of the remotest antiquit
have been built at different times, or
of the ruins of different ancient build
hieroglyphics upon this are very il

Nile, called Jibbel el Silfelly, where a boom, or chain, was drawn across the river, to hinder, as is supposed, the Nubian boats from committing piratical practices in Lower Egypt.

About noon, they passed Coom Ombo, a round building like a castle, and then arrived at Daroo, a miserable mansion; unconscious that, some years after, they were to be indebted to that paltry village for the man who was to guide them through the desert, and restore them to their native country and their friends.

On the 20th, they sailed with a favourable wind, and soon came to an anchor on the south end of the palm groves, and north end of the town of Syene, nearly opposite to an island in which there is a small handsome Egyptian temple, pretty entire. It is the temple of Cnuphis, where formerly was the Nilometer.

Adjoining to the palm-trees was a very good comfortable house, belonging to Hussein Schourbatchie, the person that used to be sent from that place to Cairo, to receive the pay of the janizaries in garrison at Syene, upon whom too Mr. Bruce had credit for a very small sum.

They passed out at the south gate of the town, into the first small sandy plain. A very little to the left there are a number tomb stones, with inscriptions in the Cufic character, which travellers erroneously have called an unknown language and letters; although it was the only character known to Mahomet, and the most learned of his sect in the first ages.

After passing the tomb-stones without the gate, they came to a plain about five miles long, bordered on the left by a hill of no considerable height, and sandy like the plain, upon which are
seen

seen some ruins, more modern than the Egyptian buildings already described. It seemed, to be a mixture of all kinds.

The distance from the gate of Jemsa, or Marada, on the cataract, is about five English miles. After the description given of this cataract in some authors, Mr. Bruce has reason to be surprised, when he came to the banks, to find that vessels sail up and down, and consequently the fall cannot be so great as to deprive people of hearing.

The bed of the river, occupied by the cataract, was not then half a mile broad. It divides into a number of small channels, by which the water, of granite, from thirty to forty feet high, is sent, confined for a long course, over the rocky mountains of Nubia, tries to pass, with great violence. Finding, in the end, no more opposition from the rocks, it is forced back by these, it meets the current, and rents. The chafing of the water against these huge obstacles, the meeting of the currents one with another, creates a great ebullition, and makes such a noise, that it fills the mind with a sense of terror, rather than terror.

On the 22d, 23d, and 24th of July, the astronomers being at Syene, by a mean of the observations, Mr. Bruce concluded the latitude to be 24 deg. 0 min. 45 sec. N.

As Mr. Bruce was now about to conclude that part of his expedition, in which he had to have no farther intercourse with the natives, he had himself to work to examine all his observations, and put his journal in such a state, that he might be able to give an account of the labours and pains he had hitherto

not be totally lost to the public, if he should perish in the journey he had undertaken; which, every day, from all information he could procure, appeared to be more and more desperate.

Having finished these, at least so far as to make them intelligible to others, he conveyed them to his friends at Cairo.

On Thursday, the 16th of February, 1769, Mr. Bruce heard the caravan was ready to set out for Kenné, the Cane Emporium of antiquity. All the way from Kenné, close to their left, were desert hills, on which not the least verdure grew, but a few plants of a large species of solanum, called Burrumbuc.

On the 17th, at eight o'clock in the morning, Mr. Bruce, having mounted his servants all on horseback, and taken the charge of their own camels, they advanced slowly into the desert. There were about two hundred men on horseback, armed with firelocks; all of them lions, if you believed their word or appearance; but our travellers were credibly informed, that fifty of the Arabs, at first sight, would have made these heroes fly, without any bloodshed.

Our travellers road was all the way in an open plain, bounded by hillocks of sand, and fine gravel, perfectly hard, and not perceptibly above the level of the plain country of Egypt. About twelve miles distant there is a ridge of mountains of no considerable height, perhaps the most barren in the world. Between these their road lay through plains, never three miles broad, but without trees, shrubs, or herbs. There are not even the traces of any living creature, neither serpent nor lizard, antelope nor ostrich, the usual inhabitants of the most dreary deserts. Even the birds seem to avoid

avoid the place as pestilential, not one of any kind so much as flying over was burning hot, and, upon rubbing together, in half a minute, they both and flamed; a proof how near they were reduced to a general conflagration!

At half past three, they pitched the some draw-wells, which, upon tasting more bitter than foot. They had, however, water carried by the camels in skins. This water had only one needful quality, and therefore very comfortable for them outwardly. This unpleasant staid Legeta; here they were obliged to stay all night, and all next day, to wait the arrival of a caravan of Cus, Efné, and part of the caravan of Ebanout.

In the evening arrived twenty Turmanians; all of them neatly and cleanly mounted on camels, armed with swords and pistols at their girdle, and a short few of these spoke Arabic, and Mr. Bruce's servant, Michael, interpreted for them. Having been informed, that the large tent was an Englishman's, they came into it with confidence. They told Mr. Bruce, that a number of neighbours and companions were sent out together to go to Mecca, to trade, and not knowing the language, or cu-

Bey of Girgê, yet no satisfaction had been obtained; and that now they had heard an Englishman was here, whom they reckoned their countryman, they had come to propose, that they should make a common cause to defend each other against all enemies.—What they meant by countryman was this:—There is in Asia Minor, somewhere between Anatolia and Caramania, a district which they call *Caz Dagli*, and this the Turks believe was the country from which the English first drew their origin; and on this account they never fail to claim kindred with the English wherever they meet, especially if they stand in need of their assistance.

Mr. Bruce says, he cannot conceal the secret pleasure he had in finding the character of his country so firmly established among nations so distant, enemies to our religion, and strangers to our government. Turks from Mount Taurus, and Arabs from the Desert of Libya, thought themselves unsafe among their own countrymen, but trusted their lives and their little fortunes implicitly to the direction and word of an Englishman, whom they had never before seen.

They staid all the 18th at *Legeta*, waiting for the junction of the caravans, and departed the next day in the morning. Their journey, all that day was through a plain, never less than a mile broad, and never broader than three.

At half past ten, they passed a mountain of green and red marble, and at twelve they entered a plain called *Hamra*, where they first observed the sand red, with a purple cast, of the colour of porphyry; and this is the signification of *Hamra*, the name of the valley.

Mr. Bruce dismounted here, what the rocks were composed of; he began the quarries of gneiss, granite, and soft. He had not been the pursuit an hour, before they with a request that the Amos had sent of the caravan. But it was that they were some thieves only tempted to steal some loads of corn that were weak, or fallen lame.

On the 30th, at five o'clock they left Min el Masrah, and, the mouth of the defiles. At eleven to descend, having had a very pleasant from Kermah all the way.

On the 31st, they departed early from Kermah, and, at ten o'clock several defiles, perpetually alarmed that the Arabs were approaching; they ever fear.

At length they arrived at Collei walled village, built upon the the locks of floating sand. It is defended fort of hewn stone, with square towers, with some small guns, all in position; and of no other use but for the Arabs.

The port, if we may call it so, is east of the town. It is nothing but a run out about four hundred yards and defends the vessels, which ride in it, from the north and north-east. The houses of the town cover them from the west. There is a large inclosure of mud wall, and, within, every night

shop or magazine for his corn and merchandise : little of this last is imported, unless coarse India goods, for the consumption of Upper Egypt.

Mr. Bruce found, by many meridian altitudes of the sun, taken at the castle, that Cosséir is in latitude 26 deg. 7 min. 51 sec. north ; and longitude 34 deg. 4 min. 15 sec. east of the meridian of Greenwich.

The caravan from Syene arrived at this time, escorted by four hundred Ababdé, all upon camels, each armed with two short javelins. The manner of their riding was very whimsical ; they had two small saddles on each camel, and sat back to back.

Mr. Bruce now took up his quarters in the castle, and as the Ababdé had told strange stories about the Mountain of Emeralds, he determined to make a voyage thither.

He chose a man who had been twice at these mountains of emeralds ; and with the best boat then in the harbour, they sailed, with the wind at north-east, from the harbour of Cosséir, about an hour before the dawn of day. They kept coasting along, with a very moderate wind, much diverted with the red and green appearances of the marble mountains upon the coast. Their vessel had one sail, like a straw mattress, made of the leaves of a kind of palm-tree, which they call Doom. It was fixed above, and drew up like a curtain, but did not lower with a yard like a sail ; so that upon stress of weather, if the sail was furled, it was so top-heavy, that the ship must founder, or the mast be carried away. But, by way of indemnification, the planks of the vessel were sewed together, and there was not a nail, nor a piece of iron, in the whole ; so that when

you struck upon a rock, seldom any dined.

Next morning, Mr. Bruce saw a rock, like a pillar, rising out of the sea; he took it for a part of the continent; advanced nearer it, it appeared to be about three miles from the shore, of an island rising in the middle. It seems to be called, and is called, in the language of the Jibbel Siberget, which has been translated Mountain of Emeralds.

On the 10th, at day-break in the morning the traveller took the Arab of Cossair with him, who knew the place. They advanced about five miles in a perfectly desert country, with a few acacia trees scattered here and there.

At the foot of the mountain, are five shafts, none of them four feet in diameter, the Zumrud Wells, from which the Arabs are said to have drawn the emeralds. Our party were not provided with materials, and without inclination, to descend into any of them, where the air was probably bad. Mr. Bruce picked up some worn fragments of brittle green crystal, which is the fibrous beryl of Ethiopia, perhaps the zumrud ragdus described by Pliny, but by no means an emerald, known since the discovery of the new world, whose first character absolutely contradicts the true Peruvian emerald by its softness and hardness to the ruby.

Bruce having satisfied his curiosity, returned to his boat, where he had an excellent dinner of fish prepared by the Arab.

About three o'clock in the afternoon, with a favourable wind and fine weather, they continued along the coast, with an easy sail. They saw no appearance of any inhabitants; the mountains were broken and pointed, taking the direction of the coast, advancing and receding as the shore itself did. They continued this voyage, and, after encountering storms that were nearly proving fatal to them, they arrived safe at Cossair, on the 19th, about the close of the evening.

On the 5th of April, Mr. Bruce, after having made his last observation of longitude at Cossair, embarked on board a vessel he had procured for the purpose, and sailed from that port. It was necessary to conceal from some of his servants his intention of proceeding to the bottom of the gulph, lest, finding themselves among Christians so near Cairo, they might desert a voyage, of which they were sick before it was well begun.

In the morning of the 6th, they made the Jafateen Islands. They are four in number, joined by shoals and sunken rocks. They are crooked, or bent, like half a bow, and are dangerous for ships sailing in the night.

On the 9th, they arrived at Tor, a small straggling village, with a convent of Greek monks, belonging to Mount Sinai. Don John de Castro took this town when it was walled and fortified, soon after the discovery of the Indies by the Portuguese; it has never since been of any consideration. It serves now only as a watering-place for ships going to and from Suez. From this we have a distinct view of the points of the mountains Horeb and Sinai, which appear behind and above the others, their tops being often covered with snow in winter.

worth, perhaps, two hundred thousand. One merchant, perhaps a Turk, living at thirty hours journey off, where no Christian goes, offers to purchase the cargoes of four or five of these ships himself; another, of the same cast, comes and says, he will buy none, but has them all. The samples are shewn, and the cargoes of the whole nine ships are carried to the wildest part of Arabia, by men with whom one would not wish to trust ourselves alone in the field. This is not all, two India brokers come into the room to settle the price. One is the captain of the India ship, the other on the side of the buyer, the Turk. They are neither Mahometans nor Christians, but have credit with both. They sit down on the carpet, and take their shawl, which they carry on their shoulders, and spread it over their hands. They talk, in the mean time, on different subjects, of the arrival of ships from India, or of the state of the day, as if they were employed in any business whatever. After about twenty minutes spent in handling each others fingers with their shawl, the bargain is concluded, say five or six ships, without one word ever having been said on the subject, or pen or ink used in a contract whatever. Yet, there never was one in a dispute happening in these sales.

Matters are to be carried still farther, and money is to be paid. A private Moor,

it. This is received for what is marked upon without any one ever having opened one of the bags, and, in India, it is current for the value marked upon it, as long as the bag lasts.

Jidda, as well as all the east coast of the Red Sea, is very unwholesome. Immediately without the gate of that town, to the eastward, is a desert plain filled with the huts of the Bedowëens, or Country Arabs, built of long bundles of spartum, or bent grass, put together like fascines. These Bedowëens supply Jidda with milk and butter.

This place, besides being in the most unwholesome part of Arabia, is, at the same time, in the most barren and desert situation. This, and many other inconveniences, under which it labours, could, probably, have occasioned its being abandoned altogether, were it not for its vicinity to Mecca, and the great and sudden influx of wealth from the India trade, which, once a year, arrives at this port. Very little advantage, however, accrues to Jidda. The customs are all immediately sent to a needy sovereign, and a hungry set of relations, dependents, and ministers at Mecca. The gold is returned in bags and boxes, and passes on as rapidly to the ships as the goods do to the market, and leaves as little profit behind. In the mean time, provisions rise to a prodigious price, and this falls upon the townsmen, while all the profit of the traffic is in the hands of strangers; most of whom, after the market is over, retire to Yemen, and other neighbouring countries, which abound in every sort of provision.

Though Jidda is the country of their prophet, yet nowhere are there so many unmarried women, and the permission of marrying four wives was
allowed

gives its name from Taami in Arabic, signifies the sea-coast. There is little water as it never rains; and there are no antelope, the gazel, or antelope.

On the 18th, at seven in the morning discovered the mountains, under the town of Loheia. This city is built on the south-west side of a peninsula, surrounded where, but on the east, by the sea. In the middle of this neck there is a small mountain which serves for a fortreis, and there are two cannons, which reach across on each side of the hill to the shore. At Loheia they have an uneasy sensation, a kind of prickling on their legs, which were bare, occasioned by salt effluvia, or steams, from the earth about the town, and farther to the south, strongly impregnated with that mineral and butchers meat, and indeed all food here, are plentiful and reasonable at present, though the water is bad. There is also plenty of fruit brought from the mountains by the Beja, who live in the skirts of the town, and supply the town with milk, firewood, and fruit.

The government of the iman is more gentle than any Moorish government in Africa: the people too are of gentle

stringent, to keep them dry from sweat; and their own hair, which is plaited, and long tails behind.

On the 27th, in the evening, they parted from the coast but were obliged to tow the boat out, passing some dangerous shoals, on the 30th, at six o'clock in the morning, with a gentle, steady wind at west, they sailed for the mouth of the Indian Ocean. The rais became more bold and bolder as he approached his own country and offered to carry Mr. Bruce for nothing, and could go home with to Sheher.

The coast of Arabia, all along from Mocha to Aden, is bold, close to which you may run with safety, danger night or day. They continued to sail within a mile of the shore, where, in some places, there appeared to be small woods, but in a flat bare country, bounded with mountains at a considerable distance. About four in the afternoon they saw the mountain which forms one of the capes of the Straights of Babel-mandeb, in shape resembling a gunner's quoin.

On the 31st, at nine in the morning, they came to anchor above Jibbel Raban, or Pilots Island, under the cape, which, on the Arabian side, forms the north entrance of the straights. After entering within the straights, the channel is divided into two, by the Island of Perim, otherwise Aden. The inmost and northern channel, that towards the Arabian shore, is two miles broad at most, and from twelve to seven fathoms of water. The other entry is three miles broad, with deep water, from twenty to thirty fathoms. From this, the coast on both sides runs nearly in a north-west direction, widening

as it advances, and the Indian Ocean straighter.

On the 2d of August, at sun-rise, land ahead, which, upon a nearer approach found to be two low islands to the leeward of which they fetched with great difficulty. Here they landed to refresh themselves. They made several large fires; one took the coffee, another boiled the rice; they roasted four turtles; made ready a dolphin; got wine, and brandy, and drank the king's health in earnest, which their regimen would not allow them to do in the Straights of Malacca. While this good cheer was proceeding, Mr. Bruce saw with his glass, first one vessel running along the coast westward, who did not stop; about a quarter of an hour after, and upon a camel, walking at the ordinary pace, who dismounted just opposite to them, and he thought, knelt down to say his prayers upon the sand.

Mr. Bruce, after some little intercourse with the natives, whose conduct was very suspicious, directed the sails to stand out towards the island, and there being a gentle breeze from the shore, carrying an easy sail, they stood overboard Mocha town, to avoid some rocks or islands.

The wind continuing moderate, at 1 o'clock, in the morning of the 3d, they passed Jibbel el Ourée, then Jibbel Zekir; and had a strong gale with fair and moderate weather, to the westward of the island Rasabab, and some other islands to the north. Here the wind turned contrary, they arrived at Zeila, the 6th, in the morning.

being prepared for our travellers they sailed from Loheia on the 3d of 1769, for Masuah.

Abyssinian, who died on board, and who was buried upon their coming out from Masuah, had been seen upon the bowsprit for several days, and had terrified the sailors very much. When the rais had been not a little alarmed, though he could not directly say that he saw him, yet, after Mr. Bruce was in the 7th, he complained seriously to him of the consequences it would produce, if a storm was to rise, and the ghost was to be placed there; he desired him to come on board and speak to him. "My good rais, (said Mr. Bruce) I am exceedingly tired, and I am vexed much with the sun, which hath been hot to day. You know the Abyssinian's passage, and, if he do not over-load the ship, I do not think, that in justice or equity, either you or I can hinder the ghost from his voyage to Abyssinia, as we cannot do what serious business he may have on board. The rais began to bless himself that he saw any thing of his affairs.—" Then, said Mr. Bruce, if you do not find he makes the ship heavy before, do not molest him; but, if he was to come into any other ship, or if he was to insist to sit in the bows of you, he would be a greater inconvenience to you than in his present post." The rais again to bless himself, repeating a verse of the Koran; "bismilla sheitan rejem," in the name of God keep the devil far from me. Then, said Mr. Bruce, if he does us no harm, I will let him ride upon the bowsprit

will be satisfied, or till he comes to Meled I swear to you, unless he turns or cough I do not think I have any disposition to get off my bed to molest him, only for that he is nothing off with him."

The rain now seemed to be exceedingly cold, and cold, for his part, he did not care life more than any other man on board was not found fear of a gale of wind, he rode on the bowsprit and he d—id; but had always heard learned people could to ghosts. "Will you be so good, rain, our traveller, to step forward, and tell him I am going to drink coffee, and should be if he would walk into the cabin, and thing he has to communicate to me, if Christian; and if not, to Mahomet G." The rain went out, but, as Mr. Bruce's told him, he would neither go himself, nor put any person to go to the ghost for. However, here the matter ended for the I was, indeed, seen again some time wards, and was said to have robbed several of the passengers of part of their property. Bruce, however, found out, that it was a ghost, but some of the sailors who were thieves, and, after this detection, the ghost never more heard of.

On the 11th, about seven in the evening struck upon a reef of coral rocks. All upwards in all sudden dangers; for they every accident as the will of Providence before not to be avoided. The Arab immediately taking to the boat, the sailors were for cutting up the inside of the vessel, and

raft. A violent dispute ensued, and after a battle, when night overtook them, still upon the rock. The rais and Yafine, however, calmed the riot, when Mr. Bruce begged passengers would hear him. "You all," said he, or should know, that the boat is mine; as I bought it with my money, for the use and accommodation of myself and servants; you know, likewise, that I and my men are all well armed, while you are naked; therefore do not imagine, that we will suffer any of you to enter that boat, and save your lives at the expense of ours. On this vessel of the rais is your dependence, in it you are to be saved or to perish; therefore all hands to work, and get the boat off while it is calm; if she had been mate-damaged, she had been sunk before now." All seemed, on this, to take courage, and they hoped he would not leave them. He told them, if they would be men, he would not leave them while there was a bit of the vessel left on her.

The boat was immediately launched, and one of Mr. Bruce's servants, the rais, and two sailors were put on board. They were soon upon the bank, where the two sailors got out, who planted their feet at first upon the white coral, but afterwards got firmer footing. They attempted to push the ship backwards but she would not move. Poles and handspikes were tried in order to move her, but these were not long enough. In the end, there was no appearance of getting her off before morning, when they knew the wind would rise, and it was to be feared she would be dashed to pieces. Other efforts were used, and a great cry was set up, that she began

G 3

began to move. A little after, a just made itself felt from the east, from the rais was, "Hoist the foresail aback." This being immediately a gentle breeze filling the foresail at the all pushed, and the vessel slid gently from the shoal. Mr. Bruce did not the joy so suddenly as the others did, always some fears a plank might have been ed; but they saw the advantage of a vessel sewed, rather than nailed together, and only was unhurt, but made very little water.

On the 19th of September, at five in the afternoon, they came to an anchor in the of Massuah, having been seventeen days in passage, including the day they first went aboard, though this voyage, with a favourable wind, is generally made in three. Yet the day must not be wholly attributed to the weather as they spent much time in surveying island Massuah, or the Harbour of the Shepherd a small island on the Abyssinian shore, having excellent harbour, and water deep enough for ships of any size, where they may ride in the most security, from whatever point, or whatever degree of strength the wind blows. The island itself is very small, scarce three quarters of a mile in length, and about half that breadth; one third of which is occupied by houses, another by cisterns to receive the rain water, and the last is reserved for burying the dead.

This island was a place of much resort as long as commerce flourished; but it fell into obscurity very suddenly after the Turks put the finishing hand to the ruin of the Indian trade in the

ea, begun some years before, by the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, and the settlement made by the Portuguese on the continent of Asia.

It was evening when they arrived here, Mr. Bruce thought it advisable to sleep on board to-night, that he might have a whole day before him, and receive in the night any intelligence from friends, who might not chuse to come openly to see him and his command, at least before the determination of the governor of that place, had been concerning them.

On the 20th, a person came from Mahometti to conduct Mr. Bruce on shore. The person himself was at Arkeeko, and Achmet, his successor, had therefore come down to perform the duties of the merchandise on board the ship. There were two elbow chairs placed in the middle of the market place. Achmet sat in one of them, while the several officers opened the boxes and packages before him; the other chair on his left hand was empty. He was dressed all in white, in a long Banian habit of that country, and a close-bodied frock reaching to his knees.

This species of dress did not, in any way suit Achmet's shape or size; but, it seems, not to be in gala. Achmet stood up, just as Mr. Bruce arrived within arm's length of him; they touched each other's hands, carried their fingers to their lips, then laid their hands on their breasts; our traveller pronouncing the salutation of the inferior "Salam alicum!" between us; to which he answered, politely, "Alicum salam!" There is peace between us. He pointed to the chair, which
Mr.

Mr. Bruce declined; but he obliged down.

In these countries, the greater honour shewn you at first meeting, the more present is expected. He made a coffee directly, as the immediate meat or drink is an assurance your life is in danger. He began with an air that was rather serious; "We have expected you some time ago, but thought you had changed your mind, and was gone to India."—"Sir, I am from Jidda, I have been in Arabia, the Gulf of Mocha, and crossed last from Mecca. Are you not afraid, said he, to venture upon these long and dangerous voyages?" The countries where I have been are all under the dominion of the emperor of Constantinople, whose firman I have now the honour to present to you, or to the regency of Cairo, and to the pashas—here are their letters—or to the governor of Mecca. To you, Sir, I present these letters; and besides these, one from Aga your friend, who, depending on his character, assured me this alone would be sufficient to preserve me from ill usage so long as I am in the country: as for the dangers of the road, said he, and lawless persons, my servants

rose to take his leave, and was presently
the skin by deluges of orange-flower-wa-
powered upon him from the right and left, by
of his attendants, from silver bottles.

very decent house had been provided; and
d no sooner entered, than a large dinner
ent them by Achmet, with a profusion of
s, and good fresh water, now become one of
reatest delicacies in life, and, instantly af-
their baggage was all sent unopened; with
he was very well pleased.

the 21st, in the morning, the naybe came
Arkeeko. He was poorly attended by three
servants, miserably mounted, and about
naked savages on foot, armed with short
and crooked knives. The drum beat before
the way from Arkeeko to Masuah. Upon
ing the boat, the drum on the land-side
, and those, in what is called the castle of
h, began. The castle is a small clay hut,
it one swivel gun, which is not mounted,
s upon the ground, and is fired always with
repidation and some danger. The drums
rthen jars, such as they send butter in to
, the mouths of which are covered with
so that a stranger, on seeing two or three
e together, would run a great risk of be-
them to be jars of butter, or pickles,
ly covered with oiled parchment. All the
ion was in the same style. The naybe was
in an old shabby Turkish habit, much too
or him, and seemed to have been made
the time of Sultan Selim. He wore also
his head a Turkish cowke, or high cap,
scarcely admitted any part of his head.
dress, which on him had a truly ridicu-
lous.

lous appearance, he received the c
titure, of the island of Masuah ; a
by representative of the grand sei
ed that day to be called Omar Ag
the commission.

In the afternoon, Mr. Bruce w
respects to the naybe, and found b
large wooden elbow-chair, at th
files of naked savages, who made
his chair to the door. He had
him but a coarse cotton shirt, s
seemed all pains to clean it a
thrown away, and so short that it
ed his knees. He was very tall
colour black; had a large mouth a
dull, and heavy eyes; a kind of
temptuous smile on his counten
altogether of a most stupid and br
His character perfectly correspon
gure, for he was a man of mean a
excess, avaricious, and a great dr

Mr. Bruce presented his firman
basha in the Turkish empire w
upon seeing it, kissed it, and c
forehead; but he did not even re
hand, and pushed it back to our
saying, " Do you read it all to
word."—Mr. Bruce told him it
that he had never learned to read
language.—" Nor I neither," sa
believe I never shall." Mr. Bruce
the other letters he had brought
took them all together in both
ed them unopened beside him.
uld have brought a moullah
You think I shall read all the

would take me a month." He then glared upon our traveller, with his mouth open, so like an idiot, that it was with the utmost difficulty Mr. Bruce kept his gravity, only answering, "Just as you please; you know best."

A silence followed this short conversation, and Mr. Bruce took the opportunity to give him his present, with which he did not seem displeased, but rather that it was below him to tell him so; he then took his leave of the naybe, very little pleased with his reception, and the small account he seemed to make of his letters, or of himself.

The small-pox was raging with such violence at Masnah, that it was feared the living would not be sufficient to bury the dead. The whole land was filled with shrieks and lamentations both night and day. Mr. Bruce had suppressed his character of physician, fearing he should be stained by reason of the multitude of sick.

The naybe having dispatched the vessel that brought our travellers over; and, as if he had only waited till this evidence was out of the way, he, that very night, sent word, that Mr. Bruce was to prepare him a handsome present. He gave in a long list of particulars to a great amount, which he desired might be divided into three parcels, and presented three several days. One was to be given him as Naybe of Arkeeko; one to Omar Aga, representative of the grand seignior; and one for having passed their baggage gratis and unvisited, especially the large quadrant.

As the assurance of protection Mr. Bruce had received, gave him courage, he answered him, that, having a firman of the grand seignior, and letters from Metical Aga, it was mere generosity should he give him any present at all, either as

Naybe or Omar Aga: that he
wanted that bought and sold, nor he
on board, therefore had no customer
tho he sent the Mr. Bruce to his
found him in a violent fury, and
words galled on both sides. At
nearly told our traveller, That unle
hundred ounces of gold ready to
Monday, upon his landing from
would confine him in a dungeon,
air, or meat, till his bones came th
for want.

On the 19th of October, the nay
from Arkeeko to Masuah, and as I
told, in a very ill humour with him
ceived a message to attend him, and
a large waste room like a barn, wi
people round him. This was his d
council, with all his janizaries a
state, all naked, assembled in parlia

There was a comet that had ap
days after their arrival at Masuah
been many days visible in Arabia
then in its perihelion; and, after p
junction with the sun, it now appe
ah early in the evening, receding to
Mr. Bruce had been observed wat
great attention, and the large tube
scopes had given offence to ignoran
first question the naybe asked him
that comet meant, and why it appe
before he could answer him, he aga
first time it was visible it brought t
which has killed above one thousand
Masuah and Arkeeko. It is kno
versed with it every night at Loheis

allowed you again to finish the few that remain-
ed then you are to carry it into Abyſſinia. What
have you to do with the comet?"

Without giving Mr. Bruce leave to ſpeak, his
brother Emir Achmet then ſaid, "That he was
formed our traveller was an engineer going to
Michael, governor of Tigré, to teach the Abyſſi-
nians to make cannon and gunpowder; and that
his firſt attack was to be againſt Maſuah. Five or
others ſpoke much in the ſame ſtrain; and
maybe concluded by ſaying, that he would

Mr. Bruce in chains to Conſtantinople,
ſo he went to Hamazen, with his brother
Achmet, to the hotwells there, and that
was the reſolution of all the janizaries; for
d concealed his being a phyſician.

er much altercation between Mr. Bruce
he naybe, the latter turned his back, and
Bruce went away exceedingly diſturbed, as
plain his affairs were coming to a criſis for
for evil. He obſerved, or thought he ob-
all the people ſhunned him. He was,
upon his guard, and did not wiſh them to
ear him; but, turning cloſe by him, ſaying, diſ-
a man paſſed cloſe by him, ſaying, diſ-
his ear, though in a low voice, firſt
and then in Arabic, "Fear nothing."
t, ſhort as it was, gave him no ſmall

he 6th, in the morning, while at break-
Bruce was told, that three ſervants had
om Tigré; one from Janni, a young
ave, who ſpoke and wrote Greek per-
other two ſervants were Ras Michael's,
e king's, both wearing the red ſhort
and turned up with mazarin-blue,
H
which

which is the badge of the king's is called Shalaka. Ras Michael's naybe were very stout. He said that Hannes's health was bad, and hearing that the physician, sent to call Aga from Arabia, was not fort instantly at Gondar, as he had heard arrived at Mafuah some time before the naybe, moreover, to furnish him rics, and dispatch him without loss.

Mafuah, by a great variety of of the sun and stars, was found to be deg. 35 min. 5 sec. and, by an observation of the second satellite of Jupiter, on the 2 ber 1769, its longitude was found 36 min. 30 sec. east of the meridian.

The island of Mafuah is very unindeed, is the whole coast of the Red Sea from Suez to Babelmandel, but more between the tropics. Violent fever, and the Nedad, make the principal figure in the list, and generally terminate the death. If the patient survives till he very often recovers by drinking water, or throwing a quantity of cold water upon his bed, where he is permitted to attempt to make him dry, or clothed till another deluge adds to the first.

The bark is the most sovereign but it must be given in very different manners from those pursued in Europe. A physician to take time to prepare the bark, by first giving him purgatives, till he is dead of the fever before his preparation is completed. The second or third dose

is swallowed, never fails to purge ; evacuation is copious, the patient rarely the contrary, his recovery is generally moderate purging is for the most part to and rice is a much better food than

common disease in the low country the intermediate island of Masuah, Finia, is the tertian fever, which is different from our tertian, and is successful here in the same manner as in Eu-

disease, which may be called endemical-Hanzeer, the hogs or the swine, and of the glands of the throat, and so on. This the ignorant inhabitants bring to a suppuration, but in vain ; even them in several places ; a sore and sores, and a disease very much resembles called in Europe the evil.

Scalds in Africa, within the tropics, are affected at the smallest eruption on the skin. A black of Sennaar will not sit in the house where dark, and is not with his friends, if he should have two sores on any part of his body. Nor is there any remedy, however violent, that they do for immediate relief.

The complaint Mr. Bruce mentions, as common to these countries, is called Farenteit, a word of an Arabic word, which signifies the evil ; all bad things being, by the name attributed to these poor kings, who seem to be looked upon by posterity as the evil geniuses by which they once governed.

yellowish, or thin, as in the leprosy; but it, that though the Abyssinians have hair upon their chin, Mr. Bruce has apparently in the last stage of the disease with a very good beard of its natural colour. The appetite is generally good during the disease, nor does any change of regimen produce any complaint.

Mr. Bruce lays down this as a general rule for health, that the warmest dishes the country affords, and the light in, are the most wholesome for use in the putrid climates of the Land of the Living, Abyssinia, Sennaar, and Egypt itself. Spirits, and all fermented liquors, are regarded as poisons. Spring, or running water, you can find it, is to be your only drink in any case, filtration through sand is found to be beneficial to purify this essential fluid.

Rice and pillaw are the best food for the natives. Very bad, eggs are worse; greens are not to be used. All soups or broths are to be avoided, and all game is bad.

It is a custom that, from the first day of the new year, to shriek and lament the death of a friend or relation, and to dance upon the temple with their nails about the walls, for a sixpence, one of which is left for the poor, for a purpose. It was always practised by the natives, and thence adopted by the Abyssinians, expressly forbidden both by the law and the prophets. At Masuah it seems to be danced upon that occasion. The women and visitors, place themselves in a circle, and dance slowly, figuring in and out as they please. This dance is all to the voice, the instrument being used upon the occasion.

1. In Abyssinia, too, this is pursued in a yet more ridiculous. Upon the death of an, or any nobleman, the twelve judges, who generally between sixty and seventy years of sing the song, and dance the figure-dance, in a manner so truly ridiculous, that grief must be taken fast hold of every spectator who does so, though upon the occasion.

Masuah, it is a general custom for people to burn myrrh and incense in their houses, before they open the doors in the morning; and when they go out at night, or early in the day, they always use a small piece of rag highly fumigated with these two perfumes, which they stuff in each nostril, to keep them from the unwholesome air.

Their houses are, in general, built of poles and grass, as in the towns of Arabia: but, besides these, there are about twenty of stone, six or eight of which are two stories each; though the most seldom consists of more than one room, and that one generally not a large one. Situated as Masuah is, in the very entrance of Abyssinia, a very plentiful country, yet all the necessities of life are scarce and dear. Their quantification is very indifferent. This is owing to the difficulty, expence, and danger of carrying the principal articles through the desert flat country, and the Sambar, which lies between Arkeeko and the mountains of Abyssinia; as well as to the exertions exercised by the naybe, who takes, under the name of customs, whatever part he pleases of the goods and provisions brought to that island; which means the profit of the seller is so small, as not to be worth the pains and risk of bringing it.

A considerable trade is, nevertheless, at Mafuah, narrow and confined as it is, and violent and unjust as is the government; it is all done in a slovenly manner, and in places where a small capital is invested, here is too precarious to risk a venture in valuable commodities, where the hand of the government is put into every transaction.

On the 13th, at four o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Bruce waited upon the naybe. He treated him with more civility than usual, and with less brutality; for a grain of actual civility had never yet appeared in his behaviour. He had just received news, that a servant of his, who was to collect money at Hamazen, had been killed. As our traveller saw he was about to take his leave of him, only asking him to go to Habesh; to which he answered, "I will give you time enough to think of that; do so here to-morrow."

On the 14th, in the morning, he came to see him according to appointment, having packed up his tent and got all his baggage in readiness. He received him as before, then told him in a grave air, that he was willing to furnish him with a conveyance into Habesh to the utmost of his power. He shewed him that consideration was due to him from all passengers; that his tent, baggage, and arms, he saw he was above the common sort, which the emperor's firman, and all his letters testified. He then offered by the way of putting a great affront upon him, to give him the consideration of the governor to him. When he was going, he would confer with him for a hundred, upon his swearing no

in abroad. of the shame that would fall upon
To this Mr. Bruce answered, in the same grave
ne, that he thought him very wrong to take
ee hundred patakas with shame, when receiv-
a thousand would be more honourable as well
more profitable; therefore he had nothing to
but put that into his account-book with the
ernor of Tigré, and settle his honour and his
rest together. As for himself, he was sent
y Metical Aga, on account of the king, and
proceeding accordingly, and if he opposed
ing forward to Metical Aga, he should re-
but then, again, he should expect ten
nd patakas from Metical Aga, for the trou-
l loss of time he had been at, which he and
would, no doubt, settle with him. The
aid nothing in reply, but only muttered,
his teeth, "Sheitan afrit," That devil,
enting spirit.
friends which Mr. Bruce had made at
seeing the naybe's obstinacy against their
, and, knowing the cruelty of his na-
fed Mr. Bruce to abandon all thoughts
ia; for that, in passing through Sam-
g the many barbarous people whom he
d, difficulties would multiply upon
and, either by accident, or order of
they would be surely cut off. How-
aveller was too well convin-
nt that last

and that the morrow would see them fields, free from farther tyranny and

On the 15th, early in the morning again struck his tent, and had his baggage packed, to shew they were determined to go longer. At eight o'clock he went to see him, and found him almost alone, when he addressed him in a manner, that, for him, might be considered for civil. He began with a considerable degree of eloquence, or fluency of speech, an enumeration of the difficulties of the journey, the rivers, precipices, mountains, and what were to pass; the number of wild beasts where to be found; as also, the wild people that inhabited those places; to which, he said, were luckily under his protection, and he would recommend to them to be in a manner of good offices. He commanded his secretaries to write the proper answers, then ordered them coffee.

In the mean time came in a servant, covered with dust, and seemingly fatigued, arrived in haste from afar. The nayab expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness and anxiety, on opening the letters, which were said to contain intelligence, that the Hazorta, Shio, and three nations who possessed that part of the country through which the road led to Dehra, had revolted, driven away his servants, and were themselves independent. He then, however, ordered his secretaries to stop writing, and lifting up his eyes, began with great fervour and devotion, to thank God they were not hindered in their journey; for, innocent as he was,

thers should have been cut off, the fault would have been imputed to him. Angry as Mr. Bruce at so bare-faced a farce, he could not help giving out into a violent fit of loud laughter, when he was put on the severest countenance, and desired to know the reason of his laughing at such a thing. "It is now two months," answered Mr. Bruce, "since you have been throwing various obstructions in my way; can you wonder that I should not give into so gross an imposition? This morning, before I struck my tent, in presence of your nephew Achmet, I spoke with two persons just arrived from Samhar, who brought news to Achmet, which said all was in peace. Is there any earlier intelligence than that of this kind?"

He was for some time without speaking; he then said, "If you are weary of living, you are at liberty to go; but I will do my duty in warning those that are along with you of their danger, that, when the mischief happens, it may not be imputed to me." "No number of men and Shiho," said Mr. Bruce, "unless instructed by you, can ever be found on our road, that will venture to attack us. The Shiho have no firearms; but if you have sent on purpose some of your soldiers that have firearms, these will discover by what authority they come. For our part, we cannot fly; we neither know the country, the language, nor the watering-places, and we cannot attempt it. We have plenty of different kinds of firearms, and your servants have often at Masuah we are not ignorant in the use of them. We, it is true, may lose our lives, that is in the hand of the Almighty; but we shall not leave enough on the spot, to give sufficient indication

indication to the king and Ras Mikael was that were our assassins."

Mr. Bruce then rose very abruptly. It is impossible to give any one, not even with these people, any conception of the most crafty and dissimulating masters the most clownish and boobyish of them are of dissimulation. The countenance he maybe now changed in a moment, and he burst out into a loud fit of laughter which surprised our traveller full as much as some time before, had done him. The sternness of his treacherous countenance was softened into complacency; and he then, for the first time, bore the appearance of a man who confessed that the whole was only a trick to keep them there. "But since you wish to go, be not afraid; the roads are safe, and I will give you a person to conduct you, and carry you in safety, even if there were no other way only go and prepare such remedies as you may require for the emir, and leave them with Achmet, while I finish my letters." The traveller willingly consented to do, and in a short time he found every thing ready.

Our travellers left Arkeeko on the same day, and their road southward, along the plain, was not here above a mile broad, and the ground was short grass. After an hour's journey he pitched his tent at Laberhey, near a small stream of water. The mountains of Abyssinia presented a singular aspect from this, as they appeared from the ridges. The first is of no considerable height, but full of gullies and broken ground, and covered with shrubs; the second higher, and still more rugged and bare; the third

hap, uneven-edged mountains, which would be counted high in any country in Europe. Above the top of all, towers that stupendous mountain of Taranta, probably one of the highest in the world, the point of which is buried in the clouds, and very rarely seen but in the clearest weather; at other times abandoned to perpetual mists and darkness, the seat of lightning, thunder, and of storm.

In the evening, a messenger from the naybe found them at their tent at Laberhey, and carried away their guide Saloomé. It was not till the next day that he appeared again, and with him Achmet, the naybe's nephew, who went into the tent, called for coffee, and, while drinking it, said, "You are sufficiently persuaded that I am your friend; if you are not, it is too late now to convince you. It is necessary, however, to explain the reasons of what you see. You are not to go to Erwa, though it is the best road, the safest be-
referable to the easiest. You will be apt to think me when you are toiling and sweating ascending Taranta, the highest mountain in Abyssinia on this account worthy your notice. Be then to consider, if the fatigue of body will suffer in that passage is not overpaid by absolute safety you will find yourselves indebted to the naybe, and I cannot announce the orders he may have given. I have sent my officers there; they will behave the best I can do for you is, to send you by the best road, and a safe one."

He again gave his orders to Saloomé, and Achmet, said the sedtah, or prayer of peace; Achmet's servant gave him a narrow

narrow web of muffin, which, with his he wrapped round Mr. Bruce's head, under the better sort of Mahometans wear. He then parted, saying, "He that enemy is mine also; you shall hear Mahomet Gibberti."

Thus ended a series of trouble and not to say danger, superior to any Bruce ever before had experienced, which the bare recital will give but a faint idea.

On the 16th, in the evening, they left the plain; and after continuing about an hour the grassy plain, the ground becoming firm, and gravelly, they then entered into a forest of acacia-trees of considerable size.

On the 18th, in the morning, they left the side of a green hill at Hazort: for some time their road lay through a plain, so thick set with acacia-trees, that the hands and faces were all torn and bloody by the strokes of their thorny branches. Soon they came to the mouth of a narrow valley through which a stream of water ran very swiftly over a bed of pebbles. It was the first clear water they had seen since they left Syria, and it afforded an unspeakable pleasure. The shade of a large acacia-tree, and the coolness of the air, invited them to rest on this delightful spot, though, perhaps, it was not exactly conformable to the rules of prudence; as they saw several families of the Hazorta along the side of the stream, with their flocks feeding on the branches and bushes, entirely neglectful of the danger they were treading under foot.

On the 19th, they continued their journey, the road still winding between mountains in the bed, a torrent of a river, bordered on each side with oak and sycamore trees, of a good size. At half past eight o'clock, they encamped at a place called Abbo, where the mountains are very steep, and broken very abruptly into cliffs and precipices. Abbo was by much the most agreeable station they had seen; the trees were thick, full of leaves, and gave them abundance of very dark shade. Every tree was full of birds, variegated with an infinity of colours, but destitute of a long; others, of a more homely and more European appearance, diverted them with a variety of wild notes, in a style of music still distinct and peculiar to Africa. It was observable, that the greatest part of the beautiful painted birds were of the hy, or magpie kind; nature seemed, by the fineness of their dress, to have marked them for children of noise and impertinence, but never to have attended them for pleasure or meditation.

On the 20th, they began to ascend the hills, and eminences, which serve as the roots or skirts of the great mountain Taranta. The road was on each side bordered with nabca, or junep-trees, of great beauty, and sycamores. They found every where immense flocks of antelopes; as also partridges, of a small kind, that willingly took refuge upon the trees: neither of these seemed to consider our travellers as enemies. The antelopes let them pass through their flocks, only removing to the right or to the left, or standing still and gazing upon them till they passed. But, as they were then on the confines of Tigré, or rather on the territory of the Baharnagash, and as the Hazorta were in motion every where removing towards the coast,

coast, far from the dominion to which they were going; a tribe, who had joined our party, knowing how little trust was to be put in their countrymen, advised them by no means to give any unnecessary indication of their strength, till they gained the mountain, at the foot of which the

In the afternoon, they began to ascend the mountain, through a most rocky and dangerous way, not only from its incredible steepness, but from the large holes and gullies made by the water, and the huge fragments of rocks which had been tumbled down by the water, had been tumbled down by the water, had been tumbled down by the water. It was with great difficulty that they could creep up, each man carrying his arms; but it seemed beyond the power of human strength to carry their burdens. The quadrant had been carried by eight men, four to relieve the other four, but these were ready to give up the attempt upon trial of the first few hundred yards, as Mr. Bruce was incomparably the strongest of the company, as well as the most experienced. He and a stranger Moor, who had been carried the head of it for about a hundred yards over the most difficult and dangerous part of the mountain, which before had been considered as impracticable by all.

Yasine was the name of that man, whom our traveller had discovered a sagacious turn of mind, firm heart, and nerves: never more distinguished by his abilities than in the hour of imminent danger, and other times remarkable for quietness and a constant study of his Koran,

They found it impossible to pitch their tents, on the extreme weariness in the exertions they had made. But there were, however, variety of caves near them, which had served for houses to the old inhabitants; and in these they found a quiet and not inconvenient place of repose, the night of the 20th of November.

On the 21st, at half past six in the morning, Mr. Bruce, having encouraged his company with good words, increase of wages, and hopes of reward, they began to encounter the other half of the mountain. His baggage moved much more briskly than the preceding day. The upper part of the mountain was, indeed, steeper, more craggy, rugged, and slippery, than the lower, and impeded more with trees, but not embarrassed so much with large stones and holes. Their knees and hands, however, were cut to pieces by frequent falls, and their faces torn by the multitude of thorny bushes. At last, they gained the top of the mountain, upon which is situated a small village, called Halai, the first they had seen since their leaving Masuah. It is chiefly inhabited by poor servants and shepherds, keeping the flocks of men of substance living in the town of Dixan.

The plain on the top of the mountain Taranta was, in many places, sown with wheat, which was then ready to be cut down, though the harvest was not yet begun. The grain was clean, and of a good colour, but inferior in size to that of Egypt. It did not, however, grow thick, nor was the stalk above fourteen inches high. Being very tired, they pitched their tent on the top of the mountain. The night was remarkably cold, at least appeared so to them, whose pores were opened by the excessive heat of Masuah. The

dew began to fall strongly, and so on an hour after sun-set; though the sky was perfectly clear, and the smallest stars distinctly visible.

Mr. Bruce killed a large eagle, he was about ten inches from wing to wing, having wounded it but slightly, with a spear. On the ground, it could not be prevented from being taken by the men or beasts near it with great fierceness, so that Mr. Bruce was obliged to kill it with a bayonet. It was of a dirty yellowish-brown, the head and upper part of its wings being a light brown.

On the morning of the 22d, they left their camp on the top of Taranta, and soon began to descend on the side of Tigré, through a rough and uneven road. After this they ascended a small hill, from which they obtained a distinct view of Dixan. They pitched their camp near some marshy ground for the sake of water, and saw here the people busy at their work; others, who had finished their work, were driving it out with cows or bullocks.

At half an hour after four in the afternoon they came to Dixan. As Halai was the last place, so is this the first town in Abyssinia on the side of Taranta. Dixan is built on a small hill, perfectly in the form of a sugar-loaf, the valley surrounds it every where like a wall, and a road winds spirally up the hill.

a farther, he turned short towards the house, and sat down with his firelock upon a stone at the door. Their baggage quickly followed, and it was put safe in a kind of court, inclosed with a sufficient stone wall.

It was not long till Hagi Abdelcader, Achmet's friend, came to them, inviting Mr. Bruce civilly to his house, and declaring to him the friendly orders he had received from Achmet concerning him; bringing along with him also a goat, some butter, and honey. Mr. Bruce excused himself from leaving Janni's friend, the Christian, where he had first alighted; but he recommended Yagme to him, for he had begun to shew great attachment to Mr. Bruce. In about a quarter of an hour came Saloomé, with about twenty men, and demanded our travellers in the name of the Raybe, as his strangers: he said they owed him money for conducting them, and likewise for the custom-house dues. In a moment near a hundred men were assembled round Hagi Abdelcader, all with shields and lances, and Mr. Bruce expected to see a fray of the most serious kind. The matter, however, was settled with Saloomé in an amicable manner.

The town of Dixan consists of Moors and Christians, and is very well peopled; yet the only trade of either of these sects is a very extraordinary one, that of selling of children. Nothing can elucidate the footing upon which this trade stands better than a transaction, which happened while Mr. Bruce was in Ethiopia, and which reached Gonder, by way of complaint, from Masuah, and was told him by Michael himself.

Two priests of Tigré, whose names Mr. Bruce has forgotten, had been long intimate friends. They

both in the naybe's house when Mr Masuah, though he did not then know

The naybe, willing to ingratiate himself with Ras Michael at a small expence, was on the account of the transaction, and of the priests, to restore them to him. He returned for answer, that the naybe would have them to be his chaplains; as he hoped they would be converted to the Christian religion; if not, he might send them to the rest; they would serve to be carriers and drawers of water; and that he remained at Damo enough of their kind to carry on the trade with Dixan and Masuah.

Our travellers left Dixan, which is in latitude 14 deg. 57 min. 55 sec. north, longitude 40 deg. 7 min. 30 sec. east of Greenwich, on the 25th of November, going up the very deep hill on which the Hagi Abdelcader had attended them before he left them, and the noted Saloomé likewise, to see if some occasion would be found for doing them farther mischief; but the travellers, now upon their own ground, would not suffer it to have any other than a proper consequence. One of them went to meet Saloomé at the bank of the river, making a mark on the ground which he declared that his patience was quite worn out by what he had been witness to at Dixan; and if now Saloomé, or any other person belonging to the naybe, offered to pass by him, he would bind him hand and foot, and leave him to a place, where he should be left to be a prey to the lion and hyæna. They then returned, and there our traveller's persecutions by the naybe ended.

they remained under a tree, seven feet and a half in diameter, during the night of the 25th. Bruce says, it will be to him a station ever memorable, as the first where he recovered a portion of that tranquillity of mind, to which he had been a stranger ever since his arrival at Ma-

On the 26th, at seven in the morning, they left their most pleasant quarters under the tree, and set forward with great alacrity. About a quarter of a mile from the river, they crossed the end of the plain of Zarai. Though this is but three miles long, and at one where broadest, it was the largest plain he had seen since their passing Taranta, whose hills were now covered wholly with large, black, very heavy clouds, from which they heard incessant peals of thunder, and saw violent streams of lightning. This plain was sown partly with wheat, partly with Indian corn; the first was cut, the other not yet ripe.

On the 27th, they continued their journey by a very steep and narrow path between two hills; then ascended one still higher, upon the top of which stands the large village of Gobba, whence they had a prospect over a considerable plain, all sown with the different grain of the country produces.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, they had a violent shower of hailstones. Nothing is more common than exaggeration about the size of hail, but, stooping to take up one, Mr. Bruce received a blow from another just under his eye, which he imagined had blinded him, and which occasioned a swelling all the next day.

During the four days Mr. Bruce staid at the place called Kello, told him his whole history.

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.

seems he had been settled in a province of Abyssinia, near to Sennaar, called Ras. He married Abd el Jilleel, the shekh's daughter, growing more popular than his father, as he had been persecuted by him, and obliged to leave the country. He began now to form that if Mr. Bruce was well received, as he appeared in appearance he was to be, he might, into a war. Abd el Jilleel was a coward, of making himself personal. On the contrary, was a tired man, an excellent horseman, active, and of known courage.

On the 5th of December, they began first the high mountains of Adowa, nothing resembling in shape to those of Europe, nor, in any other country. Their sides were all perpendicular rocks, high like steeples or obelisks broken into a thousand different forms.

They next passed the Mareb, which is the boundary between Tigré and the Baharnag. This side. It runs over a bed of soil; is deep, and smooth; but upon rain falling more dangerous to pass than any river in Abyssinia, on account of the frequent holes in its bottom. They then entered the narrow plain of Yeeha, wherein runs the small river, which gives its name to, or take its from it.

The surrounding space bore the marks of justice of the governor of Tigré. The inhabitants had been long the most incorrigible band of the province. He surrounded them in one burnt their houses, extirpated the possessors, could never suffer any one since to settle there.

Wednesday, the 6th of December, they proceeded on their journey, and in about four hours travelling on a very pleasant road, by hills, and through hedge-rows of jessamine-suckles, and many kinds of flowers, they arrived at Adowa.

Adowa is situated on the declivity of a hill, on the east side of a small plain, surrounded every where by mountains. This plain is watered by rivulets which are never dry in the midst of winter. The town consists of about three hundred houses, and occupies a much larger space than could be thought necessary for these to contain, by reason that each house has an inclosure round it of hedges and trees; the last chiefly figs. The number of these trees so planted round the towns, screen them so, that at a distance they appear so many woods. The mansion of the governor of Tigré, which stands here, is distinguished from any of the others in the country by its size; it is situated upon the top of the hill, and resembles a prison rather than a palace, for there are in and about it above three hundred persons in irons, some of whom have been there for twenty years, mostly with a view to extort money from them; and, what is the most unhappy, even when they have paid the sum of money which he asks, they do not always obtain their deliverance from his merciless hands; they are kept in cages like wild beasts, and treated in the same manner.

Mr. Bruce was very much interested in the appearance of their kind and hospitable governor, Janni. He had sent servants to conduct them on the passage of the river, and met them at the water-door of his house. Mr. Bruce says,

which divides it on
rejection of the gospel.

On the 15th, at
Har, where they
mountains, called
These abound with
Arabian and African
tion, and every kind
take the pains to
the people of Yau
have country houses
they stay there but
bare, dry, and bare
one of the finest
fant countries, that

On the 16th, at
mosque, or shekh's
their left hand, be
fore eleven they are
port in deep water
lanho, is an an

had twice, as he said, hindered Mr. Bruce from going in person and sweeping the face of the earth. Water was procured to wash their feet. And another contention: Janni insisted on this himself, which made Mr. Bruce go to the yard, and declare he would not. After this, the like dispute took place of servants. It was always a ceremony to wash the feet of those that come from the road who are understood to have been in Jerusalem.

As no sooner finished, than a sumptuous dinner brought, exceedingly well dressed. Consideration or entreaty could prevail upon the landlord to sit down and partake. He would stand all the time, with a glass in his hand, though he had plenty of wine; and afterwards dined with some of the men who had come out of curiosity, to see a man from so far. It was long before Mr. Bruce could prevail on his kind landlord of these respectful objections, which troubled him very much, nor could he wholly ever get rid of them.

At the seat of a very valuable manufacture of cotton cloth, which circulates all over the country instead of silver money; each web is a yard long, of one and three quarters value a pataka; that is, ten for the pound. The houses in Adowa are all built and cemented with mud instead of mortar. The roofs are in the form of cones, and are covered with a reedy sort of grass, something like wheat straw. Excepting a few spots of soil as they came to Adowa, this was the first of Tigré where there was soil sufficient

angles; and, notwithstanding the injury it suffered, the walls remain still entire to the height of twenty-five feet. It is divided into three, by cross walls of equal height. The first division seems to have been destined for the convent, the middle for the church, and the third division is separated from this by a wall, and stands in a precipice.

His kindness, hospitality, and fatherly care of him never ceased a moment. He had already presented Mr. Bruce in the most favourable light to the Iteghé, or queen-mother, whose father he had long been, to her daughter Ozoroher, and Ozoro Atlash; and, above all, to Michel, with whom his influence was very great; and, indeed, to every body he had any weight with, his own countrymen, Greeks, Abyssinians, Mahometans; and, as they afterwards found, had raised their curiosity to a great pitch.

On the 17th, our travellers set out from Adowa, summing their journey to Gondar; and on the 18th, in the morning, having passed a hill, through a very rough stony road, they again came to the plain, wherein stood Axum, once the capital of Abyssinia. The ruins of Axum are very extensive; but, like the cities of ancient times, consist altogether of public buildings. In one square, which Mr. Bruce apprehended to have been the centre of the town, there are forty obelisks, none of which have any hieroglyphics upon them.

Axum is watered by a small stream, which flows all the year from a fountain in the narrow valley, where stand the rows of obelisks. The spring is received into a magnificent basin of one hundred and fifty feet square, and thence it carries

carried, at pleasure, to water the nei gardens, where there is little fruit, pomegranates, neither are these very The present town of Axum stands at the hill, and may have about six hundred There are several manufactures of coarse cloth; and here too the best parchment of goats skins, which is the ordinary employment of the monks. On the 19th of January meridian altitude of the sun, and a mean of the altitudes of stars by night, Mr. Bruce determined the latitude of Axum to be 14 deg. 6 min. north.

On the morning of the 20th of January Bruce left Axum; the road was at first sufficiently even, through small valleys and meadows; began to ascend gently, but through a road exceedingly difficult in itself, by reason of stones standing on edge, or heaped one upon another; apparently the remains of an old causeway.

The last part of the journey made ample amends for the difficulties and fatigue they had suffered in the beginning. For the road, on every side, was perfumed with variety of flowering shrubs, chiefly different species of jessamine; one in particular of these, called Agam, impregnated the whole air with the most delicious odour, and covered the small hills through which they passed in such profusion, that they were, at times, almost overcome with its fragrance. The country all round had now the most beautiful appearance, and this was heightened by the finest weather, and a temperature of air, neither too hot nor cold.

Soon after our travellers had lost sight of the ruins of this ancient capital of Abyssinia, they perceived three travellers driving a cow before them; they had black goat skins upon their shoulders, and lances and shields in their hands; the other respects were but thinly clothed; they appeared to be soldiers. The cow did not seem to be fattened for killing, and it occurred to our travellers that it had been stolen. This, however, was not their business, nor was such an occurrence at all remarkable in a country so long engaged in war. They saw that their attendants attached themselves in a particular manner to the three soldiers who were driving the cow, and held a short conversation with them. Soon after, the soldiers suddenly tript up the cow, and gave the poor animal a very rude fall upon the ground, which was but the beginning of her sufferings. One of them sat across her neck, holding down her head by the horns, the other twisted the halter about her fore-feet, while the third, who had a knife in his hand, got astride upon her belly before her hind-legs, and gave a very deep wound in the upper part of her buttock. From the time Mr. Bruce had seen them throw the beast upon the ground, he had rejoiced, thinking, that when three people were killing a cow, they must have agreed to sell part of her to them; and he was much disappointed upon hearing that they were not then to kill her, that she was not wholly theirs, and they could not sell her. This awakened Mr. Bruce's curiosity: he let his people go forward, and staid himself, till he saw, with the utmost astonishment, two pieces, thicker and longer than our ordinary beef stakes, cut out of the higher part of the buttock of the beast.

They

They then set about curing the too was done not in an ordinary skin, which had covered the flesh taken away, was left entire, flapped over and was fastened to the corresponding two or more small skewers, or whether they had put any thing under between that and the wounded flesh, cannot tell; but at the river side were, they had prepared a cataplasm of which they covered the wound; they led the animal to rise, and drove it on to furnish them with a fuller meal should meet their companions in the evening.

Mr. Bruce could not but admire a truly soldier-like, nor did he ever see so tedious a manner of carrying provisions the road as this was. He naturally ascribed this to necessity, and the love of expedition was a liberty, to be sure, taken with Christianity; but what transgression is not warranted to when distressed by his enemy in the field. He could not as yet conceive that this was the ordinary banquet of citizens, and even of the poor throughout all this country. In the humble house of Janni, these living sacrifices never appeared. It is true they had some meat, but no part of an animal torn from the blood. The first shocked them as unchristian, but the other as impious.

On the 20th, they pitched their tent in a plain, by the banks of a quick clear stream, on a spot called Mai Shum. A man had made a very neat little garden on both sides of the rivulet, in which he had sown all sorts of vegetables and garlic, and he had a few

in, which Mr. Bruce thought was little in-
to a melon. This man guessed by their
and horses that they were hunters, and he
t them a present of the fruits of his gar-
d begged their assistance against a number
boars, which carried havock and desolation
h all his labours, marks of which were, in-
oo visible every where. Such instances of
y are very rare in this country, and de-
d encouragement. Mr. Bruce paid him,
re, for his greens; and sent two of his
s with him into the wood, and got on
ck himself.

ngst them they killed five boars, all large
n the space of about two hours; one of
measured six feet nine inches; and, though
at an amazing speed near two miles, so as
ith difficulty overtaken by the horse, and
uck through and through with two heavy
loaded at the end with iron, no person
o come near him on foot, and he defend-
self above half an hour, till, having no
eft, Mr. Bruce shot him with a horse pis-
at the misfortune was, that after their
g had been crowned with such success,
d not dare to partake of the excellent ve-
they had acquired; for the Abyssinians
rk of all kinds in the utmost detestation;
r traveller was now become cautious, lest
ld give offence.

e course of their journey, Mr. Bruce heard
rom his servants, "Robbers! Robbers!"
mediately got upon his mule to learn what
his might be, and saw, to his great sur-
art of his baggage strewed on the ground,
ants running, some leading, others on foot
driving

driving such of their mules before them; in a word, every confusion possible. Having cleared the wood, they faced about, and their firearms. Mr. Bruce rushed up to the tent, and intercepted from among the bushes one of which gave him a violent foot. At the same instant he was struck with a small unripe pumpkin. As robbers fight with pumpkins, when Mr. Bruce saw this, he was no longer under any

Notwithstanding this disagreement, our traveller advanced towards them, and they were friends, and Ras Mikael desired only to speak to them, and give them what they wanted. Their answer was, they were the only answer, but they were not. The top of the tent being now reached, they found the matter was that the Moors had taken a heap of straw, and carrying it to his ass, and the property of this, had alarmed the village. He had taken lances and shields; but, not daring to approach, for fear of the firearms, they defended themselves with showering stones from high places, at a distance from the tent. Our travellers immediately perceived, however, that though, as the king had a title to be furnished with weapons, yet, they were very well contented with every thing without force.

The tent being now pitched, and in order, a treaty soon followed,

to sell them what they wanted, but at extravagant prices, which, however, Mr. Bruce was willing to comply with. But a man of the village, acquainted with one of the king's servants, communicated to him, that the pretence of

Moor's taking the straw was not really the cause of the uproar, for they made no use of it except to burn; but that a report had been spread abroad, that an action had happened between Fasil and Ras Michael, in which the latter had been defeated; and the country, no longer in fear of the ras, had indulged themselves in their usual excesses, and, taking them for a caravan of Mahometans with merchandise, had resolved to rob them.

On the 22d, they arrived at Siré, and pitched their tent in a strong situation, in a very deep valley on the west extremity of the town. Siré is situated on the brink of a very steep, narrow valley; and through this the road lies, which is almost impassable. In the midst of this valley runs a brook bordered with palm-trees. The town is built in form of a half-moon fronting the plain, but its greatest breadth is at the west end; all the houses are of clay, and thatched; the roofs are in form of cones; as, indeed, are all in Abyssinia. Siré is famous for a manufacture of coarse cotton cloths, which pass for current money through all the province of Tigré, and are valued at a drachm, the tenth part of a wakea of gold, or near the value of an imperial dollar each; their breadth is a yard and a quarter. Besides these, beads, needles, cohob, and incense, at times only, are considered as money. The articles depend greatly on chance, whether they are current for the time or not. Mr. Bruce, on the

22d

22d of January, determined the latitude to be 14 deg. 4 min. 35 sec. north, and longitude to be 38 deg. 0 min. 15 sec. east of the meridian of Greenwich.

Although Siré is situated in one of the most unhealthy countries in the world, like other parts of the country, it has its inconveniences. Putrid fevers, of the kind, are almost constant here; and then actually reign a species of the pestilence, which swept away a number of people.

At Siré our travellers heard the good Ras Michael, on the 10th of this month, come up with Fasil at Fagitta, and dispersed his army, after killing ten thousand of his enemies. This account, though not confirmed by any authority, struck all the mutinous of the country with awe; and every man returned to his duty for fear of incurring the displeasure of the governor, which they well knew would constantly be followed by more than a proportion of vengeance, especially against those who had not accompanied him to the battle.

On the 24th, they struck their tents and passed through a vast plain. As they could discern no mountains, as far as the eye could reach, but only some few hills, standing separate on the plain, with high grass, which they were thought to produce new with the first rains.

On the 26th our travellers met a detachment of Ras Michael's army, with his firelock and musket, driving before him two millions of people, about ten years old, stark naked, and armed with bows and arrows, the part of the booty which had fallen to his share, in laying waste the country of Maitsha, after the battle. 2

truth of this news, but he would give satisfaction; sometimes he said there was a battle, sometimes none. He appeared some distrust, that one or other of the things allowed to be true, might determine to some design they might have upon his booty. He had not, in their opinion, the air of a conqueror, but rather of a coward sneaked away, and stolen these two sketches he had with him. Mr. Bruce's name was Michael was. If at Buré? where, if not at Fasil, he naturally would be. He was at Ibaba, the capital of Mait-Bruce gave him some flour and tobacco which he took very thankfully; but intelligence he would not give.

30th our travellers encamped at Adar near a small rivalet, called Mai-Lumi, of limes, or lemons, in a plain scarce a league, surrounded on each side with very high hills, in form of an amphitheatre. Above the hills are bare, rugged, and barren mountains. Midway in the cliff is a miserable village, rather to hang than to stand there, no level ground being before it to prevent inhabitants from falling down the precipice. The wood is full of lemons and wild figs from which it acquires its name.

On the 31st this night devoured one of the travellers' mules. They are here in the night, and so are lions; the roaring of the lions in the part of the wood nearest their tent, disturbed their beasts, and prevented them from eating their provender. They had from Janni two small brass-bells, such as mules carry, and had tied these to the tails of the mules.

IV. L from

Some strings of the tent, we doubt, greatly contributed to their death, from these ravenous, man, so that they never saw they made, and perhaps, the the moles, that, in the m drenched in sweat, as if the journey. The brutish hyena derided. Mr. Bruce shot on the night of the 31st of Janu of February, he fired at another was confident of killing him. balls had fallen out, or that him with the first barrel, he gave a third, and a kind of be advancing directly upon him. second shot, however, took pl without motion on the ground. men killed another with a p their determined coolness, tha about our travellers with the f or some other domestic anima than.

They were still more incommensurate animal, a large black ant, little longer than the head, which, coming out from under the demolished their carpets, which were full of threads, and part of the lining of the wife, and every bag or sack. Their bite causes a considerable pain, and the pain is greater than that from the bite of a scorpion; the dam.

The shum, on the 1st of people to value, as he said, that they might pay custo

in their caravan, had left them to go a way to Hauza. Mr Bruce had at most five asses, including those belonging to Yafine. He unmoored them so far as to open the cases: were the telescopes and quadrant; or, in rather shewed them open, as they were not from the observation he had been making. He could only wonder at things they had never seen.

After much altercation with the shum, on the 1st of February, in the morning, they left Ady. While employed in making ready for departure, which was just at the dawn of a hyæna, unseen by any of them, fastened one of Yafine's asses, and had almost pulled it away. Mr. Bruce was busied at gathering tent pins into a sack, and had placed his sword and bayonet ready against a tree. A boy, a servant to Yafine, saw the hyæna first, and flew to Mr. Bruce's musket. Yafine was pulling the poles of the tent, and, having one of the largest in his hand, he ran to the ass of his ass, and in that moment the musket fired off, luckily charged with only one ball, gave Yafine a flesh wound between the middle and forefinger of his left hand. The boy immediately threw down the musket, which had terrified the hyæna, and made him let go the ass; he stood ready to fight Yafine, who, not trusting himself with the choice of weapons, gave him so rude a blow with the tent-pole upon the head, that it felled him to the ground; and, with pikes, put an end to his life. They then were obliged to turn their cares towards the dead. Yafine's wound was soon seen to be

off part, with injustice; so that which, by the establishment of the c and nearness to the capital, should ticular manner attended to by gover ways the place where the first robbe ders are committed in unsettled tim our travellers had nothing with could be considered as subject to dut mitted every thing to the will of t the place, and gave him his present.

They had obtained leave to dep the morning of the 9th, but it w regret they were obliged to abandon metan friends into hands that seem to shew them no favour. The king sha, or Damot, far from Gondar, an ports were spread abroad about the campaign. These people only wait favourable event to make a pretence travellers of every thing they had. whose right it was to levy these c were a father and son; the old ma very decently, spoke little, but s had a very good carriage. He pre lent hatred to all Mahometans, o their religion; a sentiment which se mise nothing favourable to their f and his companions.

The young man, it seems, was a

pigeons, of which he killed several on wing, which left him in the utmost astonishment. Having got on horseback, Mr. Bruce next went through the exercise of the Arabs, with a long and a short javelin. This was more without comprehension, as he had seen something of it; but he was wonderfully taken with the rapid and fiery appearance of his horse, and, at the same time, with his docility, the form of his head, bridle, and accoutrements. He threw at the sandals off his feet, twisted his upper garment into his girdle, and set off at so furious a pace, that Mr. Bruce could not help doubting whether he was in his sober understanding. It was not long, however, before he came back, and with him a man-servant, carrying a sheep and a woman carrying a jar of honey-wine. They now swore perpetual friendship; and after two of hydromel being emptied, Mr. Bruce introduced the case of his fellow-traveller, and obtained a promise that they should leave to set out together. He would, moreover, take no awide, and said he would be faithful in his report to Gondar.

As matters were so far advanced, when a servant Michael's arrived, sent by Petro, Janni's brother, who had obtained him from Ozoro Esfher. This was an end to all their difficulties. Our young man also kept his word, and a mere trifle of money was given, rather from the Moor's own liberality than by demand, and the report of the price, and dues thereon, were as low as could be wished. News was now brought them, that Michael had actually beaten Fasil, forced him to retire to the other side of the Nile, and taken possession of Maitsha. This was just what Mr.

Bruce

Bruce could have wished, as it once to the neighbourhood of Nile, without the smallest shadow.

On the 9th of February they and their friends they had so newly acquired

They began to ascend what was the mountain, which, though it was full of bushes, was much less difficult than they had passed. At a quarter of five they arrived at the top of Lamalmon. Below, the appearance of being a plain. On the contrary, they were to find there a large plain, part in corn, bearing grain. It is full of water, to be the great reservoir from which issue all of the rivers that water this country. A multitude of streams issue from the mountain in all directions; the springs of the earth in large quantities, can be used for a mill. They plough, sow, and reap in three seasons; and the husbandman is not idle from his own indolence, and not the fault of the soil, but from three harvests. They saw, in the morning, some busy cutting down wheat; in the afternoon, others at the plough; and in the evening, they had green corn in the ear; all of which was not an inch above the ground.

The mountain is every where high, that it is not enough to be seen from a distance, but without the assistance of a telescope from below can venture to see it. Peter de Gama and his companions, and their own historians, have written of it, and put the Mahomedan name to it. No mention, however,

unrivalled conquest is made in the annals of Abyssinia, though they give the history of this campaign of Don Christopher in the life of Claudio Zenaf Segued.

On the 10th in the morning, they continued on the plain on the top of Lamalmon; and after having suffered, with infinite patience and perseverance, the hardships and danger of this long and painful journey, at forty minutes past they were gratified, at last, with the sight of Gondar, and in the course of the next day arrived there.

Abba Salama, of whom we shall hereafter have occasion to speak, at that time filled the post of *tab Saat*, or guardian of the fire. It is the highest dignity of the church, and he is the first religious officer in the palace. He had a very great revenue, and still a greater influence. He was a man exceedingly rich, and of the very best life possible; though he had taken the oath of poverty and chastity, it was said he had at time above seventy mistresses in Gondar. His way of seducing women, was as extraordinary as the number seduced. When he had fixed his eyes upon a woman, he forced her to consider pain of excommunication.

Next morning, about ten o'clock, Mr. Bruce, dressed in his Moorish dress, went to Ayto and found him with several great plates of melted butter, and honey, before him, of which he and our traveller ate; the rest was given to the Moors, and other people present. After they set out for Koscam, and on their sight of this palace they all uncovered their heads, and rode slowly. As Ayto was powerful with the Iteghé, indeed her first

first counsellor and friend, easy and immediate. They shewn into a low room in Aylo went immediately to the to inquire about Welled. He then ill, and his audience last. He returned to them with the Hawaryat was much better, faint from Waldubba had given in some characters, writing ink upon a tin plate, which washed off by a medical liquor him to drink. It was agreed, complaint was the small-pox had done him was, he ate he raw beef, after it, though he had since his arrival, but called per

Mr. Bruce, before he entered physician, stated to those present the disagreeable task now in hand. He professed his intention of curing, although the disease was much fatal in this country than in his native land. He insisted one condition should be observed, which was, that no directions in management, even of the most trifling kind, should be taken without his permission and superintendence. He then washed his hands of the consequence.

This being assented to by the court, Mr. Bruce set the servants to work, and the doors and windows, furnished with incense and myrrh in abundance, and bathed them with warm water and vinegar. This hot and fatal regimen in the climate of the east, has been

at from feeling the smallest breath of air; hot ink, a fire, and a quantity of covering are used in Abyfinia, and the doors shut so close, that candles are necessary to light the apartment. The infection spread, and several persons of high rank were seized with the small-pox, most of whom recovered under our traveller's direc-

When the patients were in a state of convalescence, they were removed to a large house of *Simati Eshté*, which stood within the boundaries of *Koscam*, while the rooms underwent another lustration and fumigation, after which they returned; and Mr. Bruce got as his fee, a prebend of a neat and convenient house, formerly belonging to *Basha Eusebius*, which had a separate entry, without going through the palace. On the 10th of March, the army marched into town in triumph, and the *ras* at the head of troops of *Tigré*. He was bareheaded; over his shoulders and down to his back, hung a palmetto, or cloak, of black velvet, with a silver fringe. A boy, by his right stirrup, held a silver staff of about five feet and a half long, much used by the slaves of our great officers at court. Behind him all the soldiers, who had slain an enemy, and taken the spoils from them, had their shields and firelocks ornamented with small shreds of scarlet cloth, one piece for every man he had slain. Remarkable among all this multitude was a door-keeper of the *ras*. This man, although well armed and well mounted, had followed wars of the *ras* from his infancy, and had been fortunate in this kind of single combat, with a whole lance and javelin, horse and person covered over with the shreds of scarlet cloth.

cloth. At this last battle of Fagita said to have slain eleven men with b

One thing remarkable in this cave Mr. Bruce observed, was the head governor of provinces. A large broad bound upon their forehead, and tied head. In the middle of this was a l nical piece of silver, gilt, about four much in the shape of our common guithers. This is called kirm, or only worn in reviews or parades. This, Mr. Bruce apprehends, like their usages, is taken from the Hebrew several allusions made in scripture to this practice:—"I said unto fools, c ishly; and to the wicked, lift not up " Lift not up your horn on high with a stiff neck."—"But my horn exalt like the horn of an unicorn. horn of the righteous shall be exal nour." And so in many other place the psalms.

Next to these came the king, w white muslin, about three inches br his forehead, tied with a large dou hind, and hanging down about two back. About him were the grea

at the 14th, Mr. Bruce was informed, that
recommendatory letters were to be read.
interim, Mr. Bruce was sent for to the
orders to dispatch a man with the king's
, to wait for him at the palace, whither
to go after leaving Michael. Five in the
g was fixed as the hour. Mr. Bruce came
before the time, and met Ayto Aylo at
or. He squeezed him by the hand, and
Refuse nothing, it can be all altered af-
ds; but it is very necessary, on account of
ests and the populace, you should have a
of some authority, otherwise you will be
and murdered the first time you go half a
om home; fifty people have told me that
ve chests filled with gold, and that you can
gold; or bring what quantity you please
e Indies; and the reason of all this is,
you refused the queen and Ozoro Esther's
gold at Koscam, and which you must ne-
again."

travellers went in and saw the ras, who
old man, sitting upon a sofa; his white
s dressed in many short curls. He ap-
to be thoughtful, but not displeased. He
to be about six feet high, though his
s made it difficult to guess with accuracy.
was perfectly free from constraint, what
uch call *degagee*. They must have been
siognomists that did not discern his capa-
understanding by his very countenance.
ook conveyed a sentiment with it: he
to have no occasion for other language;
eed, he spoke little.

Bruce sat down with Aylo, three or four
udges, Heikel the queen's chamberlain
IV. M

and others, who whispered something and went out; which interrupted Mr. Bruce from speaking as he was to do, or give him his present, which was behind him. The ras began gravely, "I think that is your name, hear you; and mark what I recommend to you: are a man, I am told who make it to wander in the fields in search of grass in solitary places, and to sit alone, looking at the stars of the heavens; the countries are not like this, though so bad at it is now. These wretches are enemies to strangers; if they saw you in your own parlour, their first thought would be how to murder you; though they were to get nothing by it, they would do you for mere mischief." "The deuce take them," says a voice from a corner, which appeared to be that of a prisoner, "before," says the ras, "after a long time with your friend Aylo, whose death you happily take, as, indeed, we thought that situation best while you were at liberty to follow your own dream; at the same time that it puts your person in safety, you will not be troubled with mor-

of mine; but he is poor, and we will provide him better, for these appointments have hono- but little profit." "Sir," said Francis, who was in presence, but behind, "it is in much more honourable hands than either mine or the Armenians, or any other white man's, since the days of Hatzé Menas, and so I told the king to-day." Very well, Francis, says the ras, it becomes a soldier to speak the truth, whether it makes for or against himself. Go then to the king, and kiss the ground upon your appointment. Aylo and Heikel are very proper persons to go with you. The king expressed his surprise to me last night he had not seen you; and there too, is Teclamariam, the king's secretary, who came with our appointment from the palace to-day." The ras, in the corner, whom Mr. Bruce took for a jest, was this Tecla Mariam, a scribe. Mr. Bruce then gave him a present, after which he retired.

Mr. Bruce went afterwards to the king's palace, and met Aylo and Heikel at the door of the audience-chamber. Tecla Mariam walked before him to the foot of the throne; after which Mr. Bruce advanced and prostrated himself upon the ground. "I have brought you a servant," says the king, from so distant a country, that if ever let him escape, we shall never be able to find him, or know where to seek him." To this he made no reply, nor did he shew any alteration of countenance. Five people were standing on each side of the throne, all young men, three on his left, and two on his right. One of the sons of Tecla Mariam, who stood uppermost on the left hand, came up, and taking hold of the hand, placed him immediately above

above him; when seeing Mr. Bruce in his girdle, he pulled out his sword. Upon being placed, Mr. Bruce fell on the ground.

The usual questions were now put to Bruce about Jerusalem and the history of his country was? which it was his duty to describe, as they knew the situation of their own—why he came so far from the moon and the stars, but especially to see the same in his country as in the East. Many such idle and tiresome questions were several times offered to take his time. The man who held it, that he might lose his majesty, and go away; but the king would not give a sign to put it off, till, being tired and standing, he leaned against the wall. He was absolutely in despair, and could not speak a word, inwardly mourning his lot in this his first preference. He was praying it might be his last preference. However, he was at last tired.

Mr. Bruce next proceeds to give a geographical division of Abyssinia into

Masuah, one of the provinces of the country was one of the principal places of residence of Baharnagash, who, when he was at home, constantly left his deputy or governor to reside for several months

Tigré is the next province in Abyssinia, as well greatness, as riches, power, and dignity, and east Masuah. It is bounded by the territory of Baharnagash, that is, by the river Mareb to the east, and the Tacazzé upon the west. It is about one hundred and twenty miles broad, from east to west, and two hundred from north to south.

Siré, a province about twenty-five miles broad, not much more in length, is reckoned as part of Tigré also. It lost the rank of a province, and was united to Tigré for the misbehaviour of one of its governors, in an expedition against the Galla in the reign of Yasous the Great.

After passing the Tacazzé, the boundary between Siré and Samen, we come to that mountainous province called by the last name. A large range of rugged mountains, where is the Jews' tomb, reaches from the south of Tigré down near Valdubba, the low, hot country that bounds Abyssinia on the north.

On the north-east of Tigré lies the province Begemder. It borders upon Angot; but the whole province now, excepting a few villages, is conquered by the Galla. It has Amhara, which is parallel to it, on the south, and is separated from it by the river Bashilo. Both these provinces are bounded by the river Nile on the west. Begemder is about one hundred and eighty miles in its greatest length, and sixty in breadth, comprehending Lasta, a mountainous province, sometimes depending on Begemder, but often in rebellion.

Begemder is the strength of Abyssinia in horsemen. It is said, that, with Lasta, it can bring forty-five thousand men; but this, as far as

ever Mr. Bruce could inform his
exaggeration. They are exceed-
when they are pleased with their
cause for which they fight; ot
easily divided, great many priva
continually kept alive, as it is
only by government itself. It
with cattle of every kind, all
The mountains are full of iron
not so steep and rocky, nor so fre
provinces, if we except only L
in all sort of wild fowl and game.

Amhara is the next province,
rivers Bathilo and Geshen. The
country from east to west, is about
twenty miles, and its breadth some-
forty. It is a very mountainous
nobility; the men are reckoned to
Abyssinia, as well as the bravest.

Between the two rivers Geshe
low, unwholesome, though fertile
Walaka; and southward of that
This province, or kingdom, was
retreat it gave to the only remnant
the house of Solomon, who fled
cre of his brethren by Judith, ab-
hundred, upon the rock of Debra
royal family remained in security
in number, for near four hundred
were restored.

Gojam, from north-east to
about eighty miles in length
breadth. It is a very flat country
ture; has few mountains, but the
ones, and chiefly on the banks of
south, which river surrounds the

On the south-east of the kingdom of Gō-am is Damot. It is about forty miles in length from north to south, and something more than twenty in breadth from east to west.

On the other side of Amid Amid is the province of Agows, bounded by those mountains on the east; by Buré and Umbarma, and the country of the Gongas, on the west; by Damot and Gafat upon the south, and Dingleber on the north.

South from Dembea is Kuara, a very mountainous province confining upon the Pagan blacks, or Shangalla, called Gongas and Guba, the Matrobi of the ancients.

Nara, and Ras el Feel, Tchelga, and on to Tcherkin, is a frontier wholly inhabited by Mahometans. Its government is generally given to a stranger, often to a Mahometan; but one of that faith is always deputy governor. It is a barren stripe of a very hot, unwholesome country, full of thick woods, and fit only for hunting. The inhabitants, fugitives from all nations, are chiefly Mahometans, but very bold and expert horsemen.

There are many other small provinces, which occasionally are annexed, and sometimes are separated; hence it is impossible to give a correct geographical view of them.

The crown of Abyssinia is hereditary, and has always been so, in one particular family, supposed to be that of Solomon by the queen of the south. It is, nevertheless, elective in this line; and there is no law of the land, or custom, which gives the eldest son an exclusive title to succeed his father.

The practice has, indeed, been quite the contrary. When, at the death of a king, his sons are

old enough to govern, and, by some accident yet sent prisoners to the Mountain of W where they are educated and confined, the eldest, not confined, generally takes possession of the throne by the strength of his father's will; but if no heir is then in the low country, the choice of the king is always according to the will of the minister, which passes for that of the people; and his inclination and interest being to govern, he never fails to chuse an infant, who afterwards directs, during the minority.

From this flow all the misfortunes of this happy country. This very defect arises from the want of a more than ordinary perfect government; for the Abyssinians' first maxim was, "Woe be to the kingdom whose king is a child;" and this they know must often happen when succession is left to the course of nature. But when there was a choice to be made between two hundred persons, all of the same family, capable of reigning, it was their own fault, and their thought, if they had not always a prince of proper age and qualification to rule the kingdom. But this mode of reasoning experience has proved to be fallacious.

The king is anointed with plain oil of olive, which, being poured upon the crown of his head, he rubs it into his long hair, indecently exposing both his hands.

The crown is made in the shape of a turban, or head-piece; it is a kind of headdress covering the king's forehead, cheeks, and ears, lined with blue taffety; the outside is of gold and half silver, of the most beautiful work. The king goes to church regularly every day, taking possession of every avenue

which he is to pass, and nobody is allowed to enter with him, because he is then on receiving two officers of his bedchamber to support him. He kisses the threshold and the steps of the church door, the steps before the door, and then returns home: sometimes there is a service in the church, sometimes there is not; but he takes no notice of the difference. He then descends into the presence chamber on a carpet and lights immediately on the carpet before the throne; and Mr. Bruce has sometimes seen great indecencies committed by the said officers in the presence chamber, upon a Persian

Serach Massery, an officer so called, with a whip, begins cracking and making a noise, like a man twenty French postillions, at the door of the palace before the dawn of day. This chases away the hyæna and other wild beasts; this, too, is a signal for the king's rising, who sits in the bedchamber every morning fasting, and after that, at eight o'clock, he goes to breakfast.

There are six noblemen of the king's own household, who are called Baalmaal, or gentlemen of the bedchamber; four of these are always with the king. There is a seventh, who is the chief of the household, called Azeleffa el Camisha, groom of the stool. He is keeper of the king's wardrobe, and the first officer of the bedchamber. There are also officers, the black slaves, and some others, who are as menial servants, and are in a degree of familiarity with him unknown to the rest of the subjects.

When the king sits to consult upon civil matters of consequence, he is shut up in a kind of closet opposite to the head of the council table.

The persons that deliberate sit according to their rank, give the youngest, or lowest, officer always the first that give their votes are colonels of the household troops. the great butlers, men that have the king's drink. The third is the keeper of that apartment in which is the lion's house; and after that of the banqueting house. The next is the magwais, an officer that always comes to hinder the pressure of the king to hinder the pressure of the the lika magwais comes the pal him the fit-auraris; then the ge the kanya kasmati; after them the letana geeta, or the under chamber secretary for the king's commands right and left azages, or general rak mastery; after him the basha; mati of Damot, then of Samen, and, last of all, Tigré, before a golden cup upon a cushion, and a brit, as being governor of Axum the book of the law supposed to be

After the governor of Tigré comes the saat, or guardian of the fire, and the fiatikal officer of the king's house

After the acab saat comes the the household; then the betwud of all the king gives his sentence, sends it to the table, from the then sitting, by the officer called the constant practice in At the king's doors and windows with here, from early morning to justice as loud as possible, in

complaining tone, and in all the different languages they are masters of, in order to their being admitted to have their supposed grievances heard. In a country so ill governed as Abyssinia is, and perpetually involved in war, it may be easily supposed there is no want of people, who have injuries and violence to complain of: But if there were not so, this is so much the constant usage, that when it happens, as in the midst of the rainy season, that few people can approach the capital, that vagrants are provided, maintained, and paid, whose sole business it is to cry and lament, as if they had been really very much injured and oppressed; and this they tell you is for the king's honour, that he may not be lonely by the palace being too quiet. This, of all their absurd customs, was the most grievous and troublesome to Mr. Bruce. Sometimes, while he was busy in his room in the rainy season, he was entertained with a concert of complaints, sighs, and groans so artfully performed, that no ear could distinguish but that it proceeded from real distress. Mr. Bruce was often so surprised as to send the soldiers at the door to bring in one of the performers; and on asking what misfortune had befallen him, he would answer very composedly, Nothing was the matter with him; that he had been sleeping all day with the horses; that hearing from the soldiers at the door, that he, Mr. Bruce, was returned to his apartment, he and his companions came to cry and make a noise under his window, to do him honour before the people, for fear he should be melancholy, by being alone; and, therefore, hoped that he would order them drink, that they might continue with a little more spirit. The violent anger which this often put him into

... In Ab...
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m is born their slave: if he bears a higher is by the king's gift; for his nearest relations are accounted nothing better. The same is in Persia.

ways has been, and still is, the custom of kings of Abyssinia to marry what number of wives they chuse; that these were not, however, consorts; but that among them there was one who was considered particularly as queen, and on her head was placed the crown, and she was called *Itteghé*. Thus, in Persia, we read that Darius loved Esther, who had found grace in his sight more than the other virgins, and he had placed a golden crown upon her head. Whether the crown upon the queen's head had any effect as to regency in Persia, as it had in Abyssinia, is what history does not inform us.

The king of Abyssinia never is seen to walk, but set his foot upon the ground, out of his chariot; and when he would dismount from the mule on which he rides, he has a servant who places a stool, who places it properly for him for that purpose. He rides into the anti-chamber to the throne, or to the stool placed in the middle of his tent. He very often judges capriciously of himself. No man is condemned by the king in person to die for the first fault, unless the crime be of a horrid nature, such as parricide or regicide. And, in general, the life and merit of the prisoner are weighed against his imputed guilt; so that if his first behaviour has more merit towards the state than his present iniquity is thought to have injured it, the prisoner is placed fairly against the other, and the accused is generally absolved when the sovereign is alone. Darius had condemned Sandoces, one

XIV. N

to this, the only offence
ordered him to be pardoned.

The Persian king, in all expeditions
attended by judges. Six judges always at
king of Abyssinia to the camp, and, before
rebels taken on the field are tried and
on the spot.

In Abyssinia, when the prisoner is condemned
in capital cases, he is not again remitted to
which is thought cruel, but he is immediately
carried away, and the sentence executed
him. Abba Salama, the Acab Saat, was
condemned by the king the morning he entered
dar, on his return from Tigré, and immediately
hanged, in the garment of a priest, on a tree
doors of the king's palace. Chremation,
to the usurper Socinios, was executed the
morning; Guebra Denghel, Ras Michael's
law, was likewise executed that same day
diately after judgment; and so were several
was the practice in Persia, as

d upon strangers, called Franks, for reli-
casses. The Catholic priests in Abyssinia
have been detested there, in these latter days,
been stoned to death, and their bodies lie
the streets of Gondar, in the squares or
places, covered with the heaps of stone
occasioned their death by being thrown at

There are three of these heaps at the
of Abbo, all covering Franciscan friars.
As we find, that Pagorasus (according to
) was stoned to death by the order of the
and the same author says, that Pharnacyas,
the murderers of Xerxes, was stoned to
likewise. But it is unnecessary to pursue
comparison between the two nations farther.
Among capital punishments, in Abyssinia, may
be stoned the plucking out of the eyes. This
is usually inflicted upon rebels. After the
loss of the battle of Fagitta, twelve chiefs
of Pagan Galla, taken prisoners by Ras Mi-
had their eyes torn out, and were after-
ward abandoned to starve in the valleys below
down. Several prisoners of another rank,
men of Tigré, underwent the same misfor-
tune, and, what is wonderful, not one of them
survived the operation, nor its consequences, though
performed in the coarsest manner, with an iron
hook, or pincers.

The dead bodies of criminals slain for trea-
son, murder, and violence, on the highway at
certain times, are seldom buried in Abyssinia.
The streets of Gondar are strewn with pieces of
carcasses, which bring the wild beasts in
flocks into the city as soon as it becomes
dark, so that it is scarcely safe for any one to
go out the night. The dogs used to bring pieces

from the great resemblance in cu-
stoms between the Persians and Abyssinians, fol-
lowing the same way of judging about the
Ethiopians, one should boldly conclude,
that the Abyssinians were a colony of Persians; I
well known to be without four
customs, mentioned as only pecu-
liar to Persia, were common to all the east; and
when those countries were overrun-
ned by those who introduced barbar-
ism, they brought their own. The reason why we
lost all the Persian customs is, that
they were never written, and so not liable to alt-
eration. The history which treats of those ancient
nations has preserved few frag-
ments of their customs from the ruins of
their empire. They were never at war with nobody, or a
few only. They preserved the ancient cus-

copied from the Egyptians, and they have preserved it, though the Egyptian reason does no longer hold *.

The Egyptians made no account of the mother whatever her state was; if the father was free, the child followed the condition of the father. This is strictly so in Abyssinia. The king's child by a negro slave, bought with money, or taken in war, is as near in succeeding to the crown, as any one of twenty children that he has older than that one, and born of the noblest women of the country.

The men in Egypt did neither buy nor sell; the same is the case in Abyssinia at this day. It is infamy for a man to go to market to buy any thing. He cannot carry water or bake bread; but he must wash the clothes belonging to both sexes; and, in this function, the women cannot help him. In Abyssinia the men carried their burdens on their heads, the women on their shoulders; and this difference, we are told, obtained in Egypt. It is plain, that this buying, in the public market, by women, must have ended whenever jealousy or sequestration of that sex began; for this reason it ended early in Egypt; but, for the opposite reason, it subsists in Abyssinia to this day. It was a sort of impiety in Egypt to eat a calf; and the reason was plain, they worshipped the cow. In Abyssinia, to this day, no man eats veal, although every one very willingly eats a cow; the Egyptian reason no longer subsists, as in the former case, but the prejudice remains, though they have forgotten their reason.

* This is the case in all countries, that customs survive even the knowledge of their origin.

the animals, in their country, not even in form, kind, or name. with those men the Septuagint, or original Hebrew, is proved, that there are many of each (know not whether they are clean or not) in a terrible confusion and uncertainty has led through ignorance or mistake, being to violate the law in any one instance not understanding it.

Mr. Bruce has mentioned, in the course of his journey from Masuab, a small distance from Axum, he overtook by way, three travellers who seemed to be driving a cow before them; and then cut a pretty large collop of flesh from her buttocks, after which they drove her before. A violent out-cry was raised in at hearing this circumstance, which the heathens hesitate to pronounce impossible, when the laws and customs of Abyssinia were to them utterly unknown. The Jesuits establ

flesh could never have been intended by God as obligatory upon mankind in general. At any rate, it is certainly not clearly known, whether the eating raw flesh was not an earlier and more general practice than by preparing it with fire.

Consistent with the plan of his work, which was to describe the manners of the several nations through which he passed, good and bad, as he observed them, Mr. Bruce says he cannot avoid giving some account of an Abyssinian banquet, as far as decency will permit him: it is part of the history of a barbarous people; and, however he might wish it, he cannot decline it.

In the capital, where one is safe from surprise at all times, or in the country or villages, when the rains have become so constant, that the valleys are no longer passable; in a word, when a man can say he is safe at home, and the spear and shield are hung up in the hall, a number of people of the best fashion in the villages, of both sexes, courtiers in the palace, or citizens in the town, meet together to dine between twelve and one o'clock. A long table is set in the middle of a large room, and benches beside it for a number of guests who are invited. A cow or bull, one or more, as the company is numerous, is brought close to the door, and his feet strongly tied. The skin that hangs down under his chin and throat, is cut only so deep as to arrive at the fat of which it totally consists, and, by the separation of a few small blood vessels, six or seven drops of blood only fall upon the ground. They have no stone, bench, or altar, upon which these cruel assassins lay the animal's head in this operation. Mr. Bruce begs his pardon indeed for calling him an assassin, as he is not so merciful as to aim at

of the beast, and cut
cut skin deep; then putting their hands
the flesh and the skin, they begin to strip
of the animal half way down his ribs, &
to the buttock, cutting the skin whereve
ders them commodiously to strip the po
bare. All the flesh on the buttocks is
off, and in solid square pieces, without l
much effusion of blood; and the prodigi
the animal makes is a signal for the co
fit down to table.

There are then laid before every gues
of plates, round cakes, if they may be
about twice as big as a pan-cake, and so
thicker and tougher. It is unleavened
a sourish taste, far from being disagree
very easily digested, made of a grain calle
is of different colours, from black to the
the whitest wheat bread. Three or fou
cakes are generally put uppermost, fo
opposite to whose seat



The act.

Engraved by J. G.

Ceremony on entering an Abyssinian Church.

p. 143.

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ones, which they put to all sorts of uses, during the time of war. The women have small steeled knives, such as the worst of the kind made

Birmingham, sold for a penny each. The company are so arranged that one man sits between two women; the man with his long knife cuts a thin piece, which would be thought a good beef-steak in England, while you see the motion of the fibres yet perfectly distinct, and alive in the flesh. No man in Abyssinia, of any fashion whatever, feeds himself, or touches his own meat. The women take the steak and cut it length-ways like strings, about the thickness of a little finger, then cross-ways into square pieces, something smaller than dice. This they lay upon a piece of the teff bread, strongly powdered with black pepper, or Cayenne pepper, and fossil salt; they then wrap it up in teff bread like a cartridge.

In the mean time, the man having put up his nose, with each hand resting upon his neighbour's knee, his body stooping, his head low and forward, and mouth open very like an idiot, he turns to the one whose cartridge is first ready, and stuffs the whole of it into his mouth, which is kept so full, that he is in constant danger of being choked. This is a mark of grandeur. The eater the man would seem to be, the larger piece he takes in his mouth; and the more noise he makes in chewing it, the more polite he is thought to be. They have, indeed, a proverb that says, "Beggars and thieves only eat small pieces, or without making a noise." Having spat out this morsel, which he does very expectantly, his next female neighbour holds forth another cartridge, which goes the same way, and so on till he is satisfied. He never drinks till he

...
dies eat till they are satisfied, and
together. A great deal of mis-
round, very seldom with any mis-
or ill-humour.

During all this time, the unfo-
the door is bleeding indeed, but t-
long as they can cut off the flesh
they do not meddle with the th-
where the great arteries are.

upon the thighs likewise; an
animal, bleeding to death, becom-
the cannibals, who have the rest
very hard work to separate the
bones with their teeth like dogs

Although we read from the Je-
about marriage and polygamy,
thing which may be averred
that there is no such thing as ma-
nia, unless that which is contr-
consent, without other form, s-

Upon separation, they divide the children. The eldest son falls to the mother's first choice, and the eldest daughter to the father. If there be but one daughter, and all the rest sons, she is assigned to the father. If there be but one son, and all the rest daughters, he is the right of the mother. If the numbers are unequal after the first election, the rest are divided by lot. There is no such distinction as legitimate and illegitimate children from the king to the beggar; for supposing any one of their marriages valid, all the issue of the rest must be adulterous bastards.

The king in his marriage uses no other ceremony than this: He sends an azage to the house where the lady lives, where the officer announces to her, it is the king's pleasure that she should remove instantly to the palace. She then dresses herself in the best manner, and immediately obeys. Thenceforward he assigns her an apartment in the palace, and gives her a house elsewhere in any part she chuses. Then, when he makes her *Iteghé*, it seems to be the nearest resemblance to marriage; for, he orders one of the judges to pronounce in his presence, that he, the king, has chosen his hand-maid, naming her, for his queen; upon which the crown is put upon her head, but she is not anointed.

The crown being hereditary in one family, but elective in the person, and polygamy being permitted, must have multiplied these heirs very much, and produced constant disputes, so that it was found necessary to provide a remedy for the anarchy and effusion of royal blood, which was otherwise inevitably to follow. The remedy was a humane and gentle one, they were confined in a good climate upon a high mountain, and main-
tain

tain are at the public expence. They then ht to read and write, but nothing fever. lred and fifty cloths for wrapping them, ... e thousand ounces of gold, which thirty thousand dollars, or crowns, are allowed the state for their maintenance. These are hardly used; and, in troublesome times, put to death upon the smallest misinformation. While Mr. Bruce was in Abyssinia, their revenue was so grossly misapplied, that some of them said to have died v ... nger and of cold, b avarice and hard-heart ... nels of Michael ne ing to furnish them ... cessaries. Nor ha king, as far as ever Mr. Bruce could discern fellow-feeling one we ... I have expected fr prince rescued from that very situation him however that be, and however distressing the ation of those princes, we cannot but be sat with it when we look to the neighbouring dom of Sennaar, or Nubia. There no mou is trusted with the confinement of their pri but, as soon as the father dies, the throats the collaterals, and all their descendants, the be laid hold of, are cut; and this is the case all the black states in the desert west of Ser Dar Fowr, Selé, and Bagirma*.

In speaking of the military force of this dom, great exaggerations have been used. It not appear, that any king of Abyssinia ever manded forty thousand effective men at any upon any cause whatever, exclusive c hold troops.

ir standards are large slaves, surmon

a person of any feeling read this and not blush e? Can he help lamenting that governor's v cruel, or subjects so tame?

the top with a hollow ball; below this is a tube, in which the staff is fixed; and immediately under the ball, a narrow stripe of silk marked, or swallow-tailed, like a vane, and seldom much broader. The standards of the infantry have their flags painted two colours cross-ways—yellow, white, red, or green. The horse have all a lion upon their flag, some a red, some green, and some a white lion. The black horse have a yellow lion, and over it a white star upon a red flag, alluding to two prophecies, the one, “Judah is a young lion,” and the other, “There shall come a star out of Judah.”

The king's household troops should consist of about eight thousand infantry, two thousand of which carry firelocks, and supply the place of archers; bows have been laid aside for near a hundred years, and are now only used by the Vaito Shangalla, and some other barbarous inconsiderable nations. These troops are divided into four companies, each under an officer called *thalaka*, which answers to our colonel. Every twenty men have an officer, every fifty a second, and every hundred a third; that is, every twenty have one officer who commands them, but is commanded likewise by an officer who commands the fifty; so that there are three officers who command fifty men, six command a hundred, and thirty command five hundred, over whom is the *thalaka*; and this body they call *Bet*, which signifies a house or apartment, because each of them goes by the name of one of the king's apartments. For example, there is an apartment called *Anbasa Bet*, or the lion's house, and the regiment carrying that name has the charge of it, and their duty is at that apartment, or that

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.

the palace where it is; there
 in Bet, or the elephant's house
 to another regiment; another
 sala, or the gold house, which
 another corps; and so on with
 are four regiments, that seldom
 to one thousand six hundred
 depend alone upon the king,
 foreigners, at least the officers; they
 charge of his person while in the
 times, when he is out of leading
 they amount to five thousand,
 oppress the country for they have
 leges. At times, when the king's
 weak, they are kept complete, out of
 jealousy.

Before the king marches, three proclamations
 are made. The first is, "Buy your
 ready your provision, and pay your servants
 after such a day, they that seek me
 not find me." The second is about a
 ter, or according as the exigency is,
 this is, "Cut down the kantuffa in
 quarters of the world, for I do not know
 am going." This kantuffa is a tree
 which very much molests the king's
 lity in their march, by taking hold of the
 hair, and the cotton cloth they are wearing.
 The third and last proclamation is, "If
 camped upon the Angrab, or Kahha,
 does not join me there, I will chastise him
 ven years." Mr. Bruce was long in doing
 this term of seven years meant, till he
 ed the Jubilee-year of the Jews, with
 ven years was a prescription of offences
 and all trespasses.

Mr. Bruce next proceeds to speak of the state of religion in Abyssinia, where there are more churches than in any other country; and though it is very mountainous, and consequently the view much obstructed, it is very seldom you see less than five or six churches; and, if you are on a commanding ground, five times that number. Every great man that dies thinks he has atoned for all his wickedness, if he leaves a fund to build a church, or has built one in his lifetime. The king builds many. Wherever a victory is gained, there a church is erected, in the very field stinking with the putrid bodies of the slain. Formerly this was only the case when the enemy was Pagan or Infidel; now the same is observed when the victories are over Christians. The situation of a church is always chosen near running water, for the convenience of their purifications and ablutions, in which they observe strictly the Levitical law. They are always placed upon the top of some beautiful round hill, which is surrounded entirely with rows of the oxycedrus, or Virginia cedar, which grows here in great beauty and perfection, and is called *Arz*. There is nothing adds so much to the beauty of the country as these churches and the plantations about them. In the middle of this plantation of cedars is interspersed, at proper distances, a number of those beautiful trees called *Dusso*, which grow very high, and are all extremely picturesque.

The churches are all round, with thatched roofs; their summits are perfect cones; the outside is surrounded by a number of wooden pillars, which are nothing else than the trunks of the cedar tree, and are placed to support the edi-

ficce, about eight feet of the roof projecting beyond the wall of the church, which forms an agreeable walk, or colonade, around it in hot weather, or in rain. The inside of the church is in several divisions, according as is prescribed by the law of Moses. The first is a circle somewhat wider than the inner one; here the congregation sit and pray. Within this is a square, and that square is divided by a veil or curtain, in which is another very small division, answering to the holy of holies. This is so narrow, that none but the priests go into it.

Every person of rank, under Jewish disqualifications, is permitted to keep without the precincts of the church, as the cedars, where, unless in Lent, you see the greatest part of the congregation; but this is left to your own conscience; and, if there was either great inconvenience in the one situation, or great satisfaction in the other, the case would be otherwise.

On your first entering the church, you put off your shoes; but you must leave a servant there with them, or else they will be stolen by the priests and monks. At entering, you kiss the threshold, and the two door-posts, go in and say what prayer you please; that finished, you come out again, and your duty is over. The churches are full of pictures, painted on parchment, and nailed upon the walls, in a manner little less slovenly than you see paltry prints in beggarly country ale-houses. Sometimes, for a particular church, they get a number of pictures of saints, on skins of parchment, ready finished from Cairo, in a style very little superior to these performances of their own. They are placed like a frieze, and hung in the upper part of the wall.

George is generally there with his dragon, Demetrius fighting a lion. There is no in their faints; they are both of the Old Testament, and those that might be fed with from both. There is St. Pontius and his wife; there is St. Balaam and his t. Sampson and his jaw bone; and so of the But the thing that surprised Mr. Bruce was, a kind of square miniature upon the of the head-piece, or mitre, of the priest, offering the sacrament at Adowa, representing a white horse plunging in the sea, with many guns and pistols swimming the surface of it, around him.

being embossed, nor in relief, ever appears of their churches; all this would be rec- idolatry; but there is no doubt that pictures been used in their churches from the very age of Christianity.

articles of the faith of the Abyssinians been enquired into, and discussed with so ceanness, in the beginning of this century, r. Bruce fears he should disoblige some of ders were he to pass this subject without

ir first bishop, Frumentius, being ordained the year 333, and instructed in the religi- he Greeks of the church of Alexandria, by hanasius, then sitting in the chair of St.

it follows that the true religion of the nians, which they received on their con- to Christianity, is that of the Greek

; and every rite or ceremony in the Abyf- church may be found and traced up to its in the Greek church, while both of them thodox. Frumentius preserved Abyssinia untainted

unt with heresy till the day of his d
 We m a letter preserved in the worl
 St. r ius, that Constantius, the here
 Green eror, wished St. Athanasius to de
 him up, ick that patriarch refused to do
 was it i is power.

Soon er this, Arianism and a numb
 other her ies, each in their turn, were bro
 by the monks from Egypt and infected the cl
 of Abyssinia.

It was settled by the first general council
 one baptism only was necessary for the regene
 ration of man, for freeing him from the sin of
 first parents, and lifting him under the banner
 of Christ.—“I confess one baptism for the rem
 mission of sins,” says the symbol. It was
 retained by the Jesuits, that in Abyssinia,
 every year, they baptised all grown people
 adults. Mr. Bruce here relates what he had
 saw on the spot.

The small river, running between the town
 Adowa and the church, had been dammed
 for several days; the stream was scanty, so
 it scarcely overflowed. It was in places
 feet deep, in some, perhaps, four, or little
 Three large tents were pitched here the morning
 before the feast of the Epiphany. About ten
 o'clock at night, the monks and priests met
 together, and began their prayers and psalms
 on the water-side, one party relieving each
 at the dawn of day the governor, Welleta Minne
 came thither with some soldiers, and sat
 on a small hill by the water-side.

As soon as the sun began to appear, the
 crosses of wood were carried by the priests,
 dressed in their sacerdotal vestments.

who, coming to the side of the river, dipt the cross into the water, and all this time the firing, skirmishing, and praying, went on together. The priests, with the crosses returned, one of their number before them, carrying something less than an English quart of water in a silver chalice; when they were about fifty yards from Welleta Michael, that general stood up, and the priest took as much water as he could hold in his hands, and sprinkled it upon his head, holding the cup at the same time to Welleta Michael's mouth to taste; after which the priest received it back again, saying, at the same time, "Gzier y'barak," which is simply, "May God bless you." Each of the three crosses were then brought forward to Welleta Michael, and he kissed them. The ceremony of sprinkling the water was then repeated to all the great men in the tent. Some of them, not contented with aspersion, received the water in the palms of their hands joined, and drank it there; more water was brought for those that had not partaken of the first; and, after the whole of the governor's company were sprinkled, the crosses returned to the river, their bearers singing hallelujahs, and skirmishing and firing continuing*.

Mr. Bruce observed, that a very little time after the governor had been sprinkled, two horses and two mules, belonging to Ras Michael and Ozoro Esther, came and were washed. Afterwards the soldiers went in and bathed their horses and guns; those who had wounds bathed them also. Heaps of platters and pots, that had

* This seems rather intended for lustration or purification, than for the rite of baptism, properly so called.

been used by Mahometans or Jews, thither likewise to be purified; whole ended.

Mr. Bruce saw this ceremony performed at Kahha, near Gondar, in person, who drank some of the water sprinkled by the priests; then took his hand, and threw the rest that Amha Yafous, saying, "I will be your father," and this was thought a high compliment, giving him his blessing at the same time, but offering him no more water.

The Abyssinians receive the holy Eucharist both kinds in unleavened bread, and bruised with the husk together as it is, that it is a kind of marmalade, and pressed with a flat spoon; whatever they may put in the mixture seems necessary to keep it in that situation in the state that it is in, until the cluster is fresh bruised just before it is used, it is little more fluid than the comfit of confectioners; but it is made of the grape as it grew, bruised stones and all.

It is a mistake that there is no wine in Abyssinia, for a quantity of excellent is made at Dreedda, south-west from Gondar, about thirty miles, which would more than supply the quantity necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist in all Abyssinia twenty times over; the people themselves are not fond of wine, but the vine in one place only; and in that place it has been imitated by the Egyptians, there is a small black grape, of an excellent quality, grows plentifully wild in every wo-

Large pieces of bread are given to the communicants in proportion to their quality; and Mr. Bruce has seen great men, who, though they opened their mouths as wide as conveniently a man can do, yet, from the respect the priest bore him, such a portion of the loaf was put into his mouth, that water ran from his eyes, from the incapacity of chewing it, which, however, he does as indecently, and with full as much noise as he eats at table.

After receiving the sacrament of the eucharist in both kinds, a pitcher of water is brought, of which the communicant drinks a large draught. He then retires from the steps of the inner division, upon which the administering priest stands, and, turning his face to the wall of the church, in private says some prayer, with seeming decency and attention.

Mr. Bruce finishes this subject by an anecdote that happened a few months before his coming into Abyssinia, as it was accidentally told him by the priest of Adowa, the very day of the Epiphany, and which Janni vouched to be true, and to have seen.

The Sunday before Ras Michael's departure for Gondar from Adowa, he went to church in great pomp, and there received the sacrament. There happened to be such a crowd to see him, that the wine, part of the consecrated elements, was thrown down and spilt upon the steps whereon the communicants stood at receiving. Some straw or hay was instantly gathered and sprinkled upon it, to cover it, and the communicants continued the service till the end, treading that grass under foot.

This giving great offence to Janni, and some few priests that lived with him, it was told Michael, who, without explaining himself, said only, "As to the fact of throwing the hay, they are a parcel of hogs and know no better." These few words had stuck in the stomach of the priest of Adowa, who, with great secrecy, and as a mark of friendship, begged Mr. Bruce would give him his opinion what he should have done, or rather, what would have been done in his country? Mr. Bruce told him that the answer to his question depended upon two things, which, being known, his difficulties would be very easily solved. "If you do believe that the wine spilt by the mob upon the steps, and trodden under foot afterwards, was really the blood of Jesus Christ, then you was guilty of a most horrid crime, and you should cry upon the mountains to cover you; and ages of atonement are not sufficient to expiate it. But if, on the contrary, you believe, as many Christian churches do, that the wine, notwithstanding consecration, remained in the cup nothing more than wine, but was only the symbol, or type, of Christ's blood of the New Testament, then the spilling it upon the steps, and the treading upon it afterwards, having been merely accidental, and out of your power to prevent, you are to humble yourself, and sincerely regret irreverent an accident happened in your land in your time; but as you did not intend, and could not prevent it, the consequence of an accident, where inattention is only culpable, will be imputed to you, and farther."

The priest declared to Mr. Bruce, with the earnestness, that he never did believe the

the elements in the eucharist were converted into the real body and blood of Christ. He said, however, that he believed this according to the Roman Catholic faith, but it never was and that he conceived that bread was bread, and the wine was wine, even after consecration.

In this example, which occurred merely accidentally, and was not the fruit of interrogation or curiosity, it appears to Mr. Bruce, whatever the Jesuits say, some at least among the Abyssinians do not believe the real presence in the eucharist; but farther our traveller is not enough informed to give a positive opinion.

The Abyssinians are not all agreed about the state of souls before the resurrection of the body. The opinion which generally prevails is, that there is no third state; but that, after the example of the thief, the souls of good men enjoy the vision immediately upon the separation of the body. But their practice and books both contradict this; for, as often as any person dies, masses are given, and prayers are offered for the souls of those departed, which would be vain, did they believe they were already in the presence of God, and in possession of the greatest bliss possible, wanting nothing to complete it.

The circumcision of the Abyssinians is performed with a sharp knife or razor. There is no incision with the nails, no formula or repetition of words, nor any religious ceremony at the time of the operation, nor is it done at any particular age, and generally it is a woman that is the surgeon. The Falatha say, they perform it sometimes with the edge of a sharp stone, sometimes with a knife or razor, and at other times with the nails of their fingers; and for this purpose

pose they have the nails of their little finger to an immoderate length: at the time of the ceremony the priest chants a hymn, or verse, "Blessed art thou, O Lord, who hastest the circumcision!" This is performed on the eighth day, and is a religious rite, according to the first institution by God to Abraham.

There is another ceremony, which respects women also, and which Mr. Bruce calls *the cutting of the hair*. This is an usage frequent, and still common among the Jews, though positively prohibited by the law: "Thou shalt not cut thy hair for the sake of, or on account of the dead." As soon as a near relation dies in Abyssinia, a brother, a friend, a cousin-german or lover, every one of that relation, with the nail of her little finger, which she leaves long on purpose, cuts off a lock of both her temples, about the size of a walnut, and therefore you see either a wound or a lock of hair on every fair face in Abyssinia; and, in the desert, when the camp is out, from the loss of the hair, they seldom have liberty to heal till the army returns with the rains.

The Abyssinians, like the ancient Egyptians, from their first colony, in computing their time, continued the use of the solar year; Siculus says, "they do not reckon their time by the moon, but according to the sun; twelve days constitute their month, to which they add five days and the fourth part of a day, and so completes their year."

It is uncertain whence they derive their names for their months; they have no signification of the languages of Abyssinia. The first month among the old Egyptians

tinued to this day. It is Tot, probably so called from the first division of time among the Egyptians, from observation of the heliacal rising of the dog-star.

The Abyssinians have another way of describing time peculiar to themselves; they read the whole of the four evangelists every year in their churches. They begin with Matthew, then proceed to Mark, Luke, and John, in order; and when they speak of an event, they write and say it happened in the days of Matthew, that is, in the first quarter of the year, while the gospel of St. Matthew was yet reading in the churches. They compute the time of the day in a very arbitrary, irregular manner. The twilight is very short, almost imperceptible, and was still more so when the court was removed farther to the southward in Shoa. As soon as the sun falls below the horizon, night comes on, and all the stars appear. This term, then, the twilight, they chose for the beginning of their day, and call it Naggé, which is the very time the twilight of the morning lasts. The same is observed at night, and Meset is meant to signify the instant of beginning twilight, between the sun's falling below the horizon and the stars appearing. Mid-day is by them called Kater, a very old word, which signifies culmination, or a thing's being arrived at the highest part of an arch. All the rest of times, in conversation, they describe by pointing at place in the heavens where the sun then was, when what they were describing happened.

Mr. Bruce concludes this subject by observing, that nothing can be more inaccurate than all Abyssinian calculations. Besides their absolute ignorance in arithmetic, their excessive idleness

on the first of January, and theirs on 1st of September, so that there are eight months difference between us. The last day of A. M. be the year 1780 with us, and 1779 only with the Abyssinians. And in the reigns of these kings they very seldom mention either months or years beyond an even number of years. When, then, it is known that the reign of a king extended from such to such a period, and the months and days are comprehended in the number, come to assign to each of these an equal number of years, without the correspondent months and days, it is plain that, when all these reigns come to be added together, the total will not agree with the other, but will be more or less than the just time which they reigned. This, indeed, as errors compound, as frequently as they accumulate, will amount to a difference of above three hundred years, a space of time too trivial to be of any consequence in the history of barbarous nations.

Ayto Confu, that he might speak in favour of Yafine, to get him appointed deputy of Ras el Feel. "Why don't you appoint him yourself?" says he, "What has Confu to do with the affair now?" "You are governor of Ras el Feel; are you not?" Mr. Bruce stood motionless with astonishment. "It is no great affair," said he, "and I hope you will never see it. It is a hot, unwholesome country, full of Mahometans; but its gold is as good as any Christian gold whatever. I wish it had been Begemder with all my heart, but there is a good time coming."

Mr. Bruce, after having recovered himself a little from his surprise at this unexpected appointment, went to Ayto Confu, to kiss his hand, as his superior; but this he would by no means suffer him to do. A great dinner was provided them by the Itteghé; and Yafine being sent for, was appointed, clothed, that is, invested, and ordered immediately to Ras el Feel to his government, to make peace with the Daveina, and bring all the horses he could get with him from thence, or from Atbara. The having thus provided for Yafine, and secured, as he thought, a retreat to Sennaar for himself, gave him the first real pleasure that he had received since his landing at Masush; and that day, seeing himself in company with all his friends, and the hopes of his country; for the first time since his arrival in Abyssinia, he abandoned himself to joy.

His constitution was, however, too much weakened to bear any excesses. The day after, when he went home to Emfras, he found himself attacked with a slow fever, and thinking that it was the prelude of an ague, with which he was often tormented, he began taking bark, and shut him-

self up in the house, upon his constant regimen of boiled rice, with abundant draughts of cold water.

At this time a piece of bad news was circulated at Goudar, that Kasmati Boro, whom the ras had left governor at Damot, had been beaten by Fasil, and obliged to retire to Stadis Amba, near the passage of the Nile, at Miné; and that Fasil, with a much larger army of Galla than that he had brought to Fagitta, had taken possession of Burt, the usual place of his residence. This being privately talked of as Bruce asked Kessa Yafous, in confidence he knew of it. Upon its being confirmed, he did not disguise his sorrow, as he was that unexpected turn of affairs would be an insurmountable obstacle to his reaching the source of the Nile. "You are mistaken," says Kessa Yafous, "it is the best thing that could happen to you. Why you desire to see those places I do not know; but this I am sure of, you will not arrive there with any degree of safety while Fasil commands. He is as perfect a Galla as ever forded the Nile; he has neither word, nor oath, nor faith that can bind; he does mischief for mischief's sake, and then laughs at it."

After Fasil's defeat at Fagitta, another very obstinate battle was fought at Banja, in which the Agows were entirely defeated by Fasil, seven of their chiefs killed, all men of great consequence, among whom was Ayamico, a very near relation of the king. The news were first brought by the son of Nanna Georgis, chief of the Agows, who had escaped from the battle. Michael was at Banja, and Mr. Bruce was present. It was one of the most successful carousals for the marriage of Powossen, when young Georgis came into the room, in the

and dirty habit, unattended, and almost un-
 ceived, and presented himself at the foot of
 table. Michael had then in his hand a cup
 old, it being the exclusive privilege of the go-
 or of the province of Tigré to drink out of such
 p; it was full of wine; before a word was
 ten, and, upon the first appearance of the man,
 hrew the cup and wine upon the ground, and
 d out, 'I am guilty of the death of these people.'
 ry one arose, the table was removed, and Geor-
 told his misfortune, that Nanna Georgis, his
 er, Zeegam Georgis, the next in rank among
 n, Aymico, the king's relation, and four other
 rfs, were slain at Banja, and their race nearly
 rpatated by a victory gained with much blood-
 t, and after cruelly pursued, in retaliation for
 of Fagitta.

A council was immediately called, where it
 resolved, that, though the rainy season
 at hand, the utmost expedition should be
 le to take the field; that Gusho and Po-
 ssen should return to their provinces, and in-
 se their army to the utmost of their power;
 the king should take the low road by Foggora
 Dara, there to join the troops of Begemder
 Amhara, cross the Nile at the mouth of the
 e, above the second cataract, and march thence
 ight to Buré, which, by speedy marches, might
 lone in five or six days. No resolution was ever
 raced with more alacrity; the cause of the
 ws was the cause of Gondar, or famine would
 immediately follow. The king's troops and
 se of Michael were all ready, and had just
 shed themselves by a week's festivity.

Gusho and Powussen, after having sworn to
 el that they never would return without

cause, one council, and one interest, till it deprived Michael of his life and dignity.

All this time Mr. Bruce found himself in health, to which the irregularities last week had greatly contributed. The king and ras had sufficiently provided tents and conveniences for him, yet he wanted to construct himself a tent, with a large slit in the roof, so he might have an opportunity of taking observations with his quadrant, without being interrupted by troublesome or curious visitors. He then obtained leave from the king to go to Enghien town about twenty miles south from Constantinople, where a number of Mahometan tents were pitched. Gusno had a house there, and a garden, which he very willingly gave Mr. Bruce the use of, with this advice, however, when the time, he did not understand, rather than to go to Ambara with him, for he would there recover his health, and be more in quietude.

tection at Koscam, till he saw whether Ras Michael and the king would return, and then take the first good opportunity of returning to his own country through Tigré, the way that he came, before any evil should overtake him.

Mr. Bruce excused himself the best he could. It was not easy to do it with any degree of conviction, to people utterly unlearned, and who knew nothing of the prejudice of ages in favour of the attempt he was engaged in. He therefore turned the discourse to professions of gratitude for benefits that he had every day received from her, and for the very great honour that she then did him, when she condescended to testify her anxiety concerning the fate of a poor unknown traveller like him, who could not possibly have any merit but what arose from her own gracious and generous sentiments, and universal charity, that extended to every object, in proportion as they were helpless.

Gondar, the metropolis of Abyssinia, is situated upon a hill of considerable height, the top of it nearly plain, on which the town is placed. It consists of about ten thousand families in times of peace; the houses are chiefly of clay, the roofs thatched in the form of cones, which is always the construction within the tropical rains. On the west end of the town is the king's house, formerly a structure of considerable consequence. Great part of it, however, is now in ruins, having been burnt at different times; but there is still ample lodging in the two lowest floors of it, the audience-chamber being above one hundred and twenty feet long.

Gondar, by a number of observations, stands in latitude 12 deg. 34 min. 30 sec. and its longi-
tude

tude is 33 min. 0 sec. east of the meridian of Green.

On the 1st of April 1770, at eight o'clock in the morning, Mr. Bruce set out from Gondar, and the next day he arrived at Emfras, after a very pleasant though not interesting excursion. The town is situated on a steep hill, and the way up to it is almost perpendicular, like the ascent of a ladder. The houses are all placed about the middle of the hill, fronting the west, in number about three hundred. These houses are without gardens, or rather of trees and bushes, without any soil up to the very top. Emfras commands the whole lake of Tzana, and part of the country on the other side. It was once a royal city.

The lake of Tzana is the largest expanse of water known in that country. Its extent, however, has been greatly exaggerated. Its greatest breadth is thirty-five miles; but it decreases greatly at each extremity, where it is not sometimes above ten miles broad: its greatest length is forty-nine miles from north to south. In the dry months, from October to March, the lake shrinks greatly in size; but after that, all those rivers are full which are on every side of it, and fall into the lake, like radii drawn to a centre, then it swells, and extends itself into the plain country, and has of course, a much larger surface.

On the 12th of May, our travellers heard the king had marched to Tedda, and on the 15th, they heard the king's kettle-drums. Forty-five of these instruments constantly go before him, beating all the way while he is on his march.

On the 14th, at day-break, Mr. Bruce mounted his horse, with all his men-servants. Early as it was

the king was then in council, and Ras Mi-
, who had his advisers assembled also in his
had just left it to go to the king's. There
about five hundred yards between their tents,
a free avenue is constantly left, in which it is
time to stand, or even to cross, unless for pas-
sengers from the one to the other.

Mr. Bruce now took the advantage to pay a vi-
sitor to the great cataract of Alata. The first thing
a traveller was shewn was the bridge, which
consists of one arch of about twenty-five feet
road. Fragments of the parapets remained, and
the bridge itself seemed to bear the appearance
of frequent repairs, and many attempts to ruin
it; otherwise, in its construction it was exceed-
ingly commodious. The Nile here is confined
between two rocks, and runs in a deep trough,
with great roaring and impetuous velocity. They
were told no crocodiles were ever seen so high,
and were obliged to remount the stream above
half a mile before they came to the cataract,
through trees and bushes of a beautiful and de-
lightful appearance.

The cataract itself was the most magnificent
sight that Mr. Bruce ever beheld. The height has
been rather exaggerated. The missionaries say the
fall is about sixteen ells, or fifty feet. The mea-
suring is, indeed, very difficult; but, by the posi-
tion of long sticks, and poles of different lengths
at different heights of the rock, from the water's
edge, Mr. Bruce thinks he may venture to say
that it is nearer forty feet than any other mea-
sure. The river had been considerably increased
by rains, and fell in one sheet of water, with
any interval, above half an English mil-
breadth, with a force and noise that was

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expressible beauty, and many of extraordinary
grace. They continued ascending about
miles, till they came to the top of the ridge
in sight of the lake. As they rose, the hills
became more bare and less beautiful.

After Mr. Bruce had passed the Nile, he found
himself more than ordinarily depressed; his spi-
rits were sunk almost to a degree of despondency,
yet nothing had happened since that period
than was expected before. This painful
condition of mind continued at night while he
was in bed. The rashness and imprudence with
which he had engaged himself in so many dangers
without any necessity for so doing; the little
chance of his being ever able to extricate him-
self from them, or, even if he lost his life, of the
remains being conveyed to his friends at home,
his imagination with what he had heard
people call the *horrors*, the most disagreeable
idea he ever was conscious of, and which
he now felt for the first time. Impatient of suf-
fering any longer, he leaped out of bed, and went
to the door of the tent, where the outward air
quickly awakened him, and restored his strength
and courage. It was then near four in the morn-
ing of the 25th. He called upon his companions,
who were happily buried in deep sleep, as he was desir-
ous, if possible, to join the king that day.

A little before nine they heard a gun fired,
which gave them some joy, as the army seemed
to be far off; a few minutes after, they heard
falling shots; and, in less than a quar-
ter of an hour's time, a general firing began from
west to east, which ceased for an instant, and
was heard again as smart as ever; about
midnight of which they were divided in opi-
nion.

They had not gone far in the plain but had a sight of the enemy, to their very surprise and no small comfort. A multitude of buffaloes, boars, and various other wild had been alarmed by the noise and daily coming of the army, and gradually driven from their haunts. The country was all overgrown with wild oats, a great many of the villages had been burnt the year before the inhabitants abandoned them: in this shelter the wild had taken up their abodes in very great numbers. Finding men in every direction in which they attempted to pass, they became desperate warriors, and, not knowing what course to take, fell upon the troops. The soldiers, happy in an opportunity of procuring animal food, presently fell to work wherever the beasts appeared; every load was discharged upon them, and this continued for very near an hour.

The king and Ras Michael appeared to be in the most violent agitation of mind; though

minutes, the army was not under his command. At this instant, Kasmati Netcho, whose fit-aura had fallen back on his front, ordered his ket-drums to be beat before he arrived in the king's presence; and this being heard, without it being known generally who they were, occasioned another panic. The king, however, ordered his tent to be pitched, his standard to be set up, and his drums to beat, when the firing immediately ceased. But it was a long while before all the army could believe that Woodage Afabel had not been engaged with some part of it that day. Mr. Bruce coming up with the army, he asked one of the generals, whither they were now marching? He said, that as soon as the news of the conspiracy was known, a council was held, where it was the general opinion they should proceed directly forward, and attack Fasil alone at Buré, then turn to Gondar, to meet the other two; but when hearing that great rains had fallen to the southward, which had swollen the rivers, there would be great danger in meeting Fasil with an army spent and fatigued with the difficulty of the roads. It was, therefore, determined that they should keep their army entire for a better day, and immediately cross the Nile, and march back to Gondar; that they had accordingly wheeled about, and that day was the first of their proceeding, which had been interrupted by the accident of the firing.

On the 26th of May, early in the morning, the army marched towards the Nile. In the afternoon they encamped, between two and three on the banks of the river Coga.

Next morning they left the river Coga, marching down upon the Nile, and passed the church

of Maria
about fifty,
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some intel
quarter he
tion, order
took the su
with him to
were killed
by the soldie

et. Here the superior, attended by his monks, came in procession to Michael; but he, having received notice of ill-offices the people of this place done to the Agows by Fasil's direction, ordered the church to be plundered, and the superior and two of the monks away to Gondar; while several of the others were killed and wounded, without provocation, &c.

They arrived on the banks of the Nile, and took a line of about six hundred yards. From the time they decamped from the river, they rained incessantly the most continued rain they had yet seen, violent claps of thunder, close one upon another, almost without intermission, accompanied with sheets of lightning, which fell on the ground like water; the day was more than commonly dark, as in an eclipse, and every hollow, or foot-path, collected a quantity of rain, which fell into the Nile in torrents.

The Abyssinian armies pass the Nile at all seasons; yet the sight of such a monstrous mass of water terrified Mr. Bruce, and made him think the idea of crossing would be laid aside. It was plain in the face of every one, that they gave themselves over for lost; an universal dejection had taken place, and it was but too visible that the army was defeated by the weather, without having seen an enemy. The Greeks crowded around Bruce all forlorn and despairing, cursing the day they had first entered that country, and following the place of devotion. A cold and brisk gale, however, soon sprang up, with a clear sun; and the

se temporary torrents all subsided, and the ground again began to become dry.

Netcho, Ras Michael's fit-auraris, with about a hundred men, had passed in the morning, and had sent back word to the king, that his men had passed swimming, and with very great difficulty; that he doubted whether the horses, or loaded mules, could cross at any rate; but if they were resolved to make the trial, they should do it immediately, without staying till the increase of the river. Instead, therefore, of resting there that night, it was resolved that the horse should cross immediately.

The first who passed was a young man, a relation of the king; he walked in with great caution, marking a track for the king to pass. He had gone upon rather solid ground, about twice the length of his horse, when he plunged out of its depth, and swam to the other side. The king followed him immediately with a great degree of haste, Ras Michael calling to him to proceed with caution, but without success. Afterwards came the old ras on his mule, with several of his friends swimming both with and without their horses on each side of him, in a manner truly wonderful. As soon as these were safely ashore, the king's household and black troops, and Mr. Bruce with them, advanced cautiously into the river, and swam happily over, in a deep stream of reddish-coloured water which ran without violence almost upon a level. Each horseman had a mule at his hand, which swam after him, or by his side, with his coat of mail and head-piece tied upon it. *It is impossible to describe the confusion that followed; night was hard upon them, and, though it increased their loss, it, in great measure*

measure, concealed it; of the horse belonging to the king's household, seven were missing. Among them Ayto Aylo, vice-chamberlain to the king, and Tecla Marian, the king's uncle.

A thousand men had not yet passed, and only a few any baggage. The fit-auraris had been made, two rafts for Ozoro Esther, and her ladies, with which she might have been conducted over, and without much danger. The ras made Ozoro Esther pass over in a manner he had crossed himself, many sitting on each side of her mule. She was very faint and fainted on the east side, but it was in vain to monstrate; as nothing could prevail with her to trust her on the bank till morning. She passed, however, safely, though almost with some fright. The river had abated towards noon, when, whether from this cause, or, as they thought, that they found a more favourable opportunity, the Tigré infantry, and many mules lighted, passed with less difficulty than any could have done, and with them several loads of baggage. Luckily also, Mr. Bruce's two tents and his great consolation, came safely over. It was nearly morning. Before day-light, the king and centre had all joined the king; the rest that had perished was never distinctly known. Those that were missing were thought to have remained on the other side with Kefla Yafous, at least for that day.

On the 28th, Kefla Yafous crossed with a great degree of difficulty, and was obliged to use several baggage mules. He advanced with as great diligence as possible to Delat, and found the ford, though deep, much better than he expected. He had pitched his tent

high road to Gondar, before Welleta Yafous, the enemy, knew he was decamped, and of this passage he immediately advised Michael refreshing his troops for any emergency. About two in the afternoon Welleta Yafous appeared with his horse on the other side of the Nile, but it was then too late. Kessa Yafous was so strongly posted, and the banks of the river so guarded with firearms, down to the water-edge, that Fasil and all his army would not have dared to attempt the passage, or even approach the banks of the river.

Ras Michael, having received this intelligence, dispatched the fit-auraris, Netcho, to take post upon the ford of the Kelti, a large river, but rather broad than deep, about three miles off. He himself followed early in the morning, and passed the Kelti just at sun-rise, without halting; he then advanced to meet Kessa Yafous, as the army began to want provisions. It was found too, that the men had but little powder, none of them having recruited their quantity since the hunting of the deer. Kessa Yafous, therefore, being in possession of the baggage, powder, and the provisions, a junction with him was absolutely necessary, and they expected to effect this at Wainadega, about twenty miles from their last night's quarters. Between twelve and one they heard the fit-auraris engaged; and there was sharp firing on both sides, which soon ceased. It was not long before the Fit-Auraris's two messengers arrived, who said that they had fallen in with Fasil's fit-auraris: that they had attacked him smartly, and, though the enemy were greatly superior, had killed four of them.

Fasil soon appeared at the top of the hill, with about three thousand horse. It was a fine sight

two bodies of horse met just half way, and together, as appeared, at least, with very intention; but whether it was by order or fear, the Abyssinian horse turned their backs and came precipitately down, so that they were as if they would break in upon the foot. Several were fired from the centre at them by the ras, who cried out aloud, in derision, to drive away these horses, and send them to the devil. On the king's side, no man of note was killed but Welleta Michael, nephew of Ras Alula, whose horse falling, he was taken prisoner.

The whole army now advanced at a rapid pace, hooping and screaming, as is the custom in a most harsh and barbarous manner, shouting, Hatxé Ali! But Fasil, who saw the countenance of the king's troops, and that in a few minutes would lay him under necessity of fighting a battle, which he did not intend, withdrew his troops at a smart trot over the smooth ground, turning towards Boskon Abba.

ley, had marched with the best and freshest troops to join Michael before the engagement. All was joy at meeting, every rank of joined in extolling the merit and conduct of leaders; and, indeed, it may be fairly said, situation of the king and the army was desperate at that instant when the troops were separated on different sides of the Nile; nor could have been saved, but by the speedy resolution by Kefla Yafous to march without loss of , and pass at the ford of Delakus, and the diligence and activity with which he executed that action.

The army marched next day to Dingleber, a hill, or rock, approaching so close to the as scarcely to leave a passage between. Upon top of this rock is the king's house. As arrived very early there, and were now out of Fasil's government, the king insisted upon seeing Ras Michael and all the people of distinction.

As the king sat down to dinner, an accident happened that occasioned great trepidation among his servants. A black eagle was chased into the king's tent by some of the birds of prey that were about the camp; and it was after in the mouth of every one, that the king would be destroyed by a man of inferior birth and condition. Every body at that time looked to Fasil: the event proved the application false, though the prediction was true. Powassen of Begemder was as much born as Fasil, as great a traitor, but more successful, to whom the ominous presage pointed; though we cannot but look upon the whole accident, it was but too soon fulfilled.

Kelti, was encamped on the opposite bank of the Nile, was not yet joined by Welleta Yafou. His errand was, to desire that the ras might encourage his men by unnecessarily hurrying Gondar, because he might rest secured of finding no farther molestation from Fasil, than as he was on his march to Buré. They discovered the whole of the conspiracy, as far as it regarded him, and the agreement that Pankash and Gusho had made with their master, who surrounded him at Derdera: they mentioned, moreover, how sensible Fasil was of their treason towards him; that, instead of keeping their word, they had left him to engage the king and his whole force, at a time when they knew that the best part of his Galla troops were retired to the other side of the Nile, and could be attacked with difficulty. Fasil declared his resolution never again to appear in arms against them, but that he would hold his government

as, though he did not believe all this, difficulty in agreeing to every thing that was required. He promised the grand-daughter; and earnest of his believing the rest, the king's orders were brought to the door of the tent, to the very great surprise of our travellers; they heard it proclaimed, "Fasil is gone to the Agow, Maittha Gojam, and Damot; I am now going to him, and long may he live a faithful servant to the king our master!"—This was an extraordinary revolution in so small a space of time; it was scarce forty-three hours since Fasil had formed a scheme for drowning the greater part of his army in the Nile, and cutting the throats of the remainder on both sides of it; it was not more than four hours, since he had met them to fight in the field, and now he was become the king's faithful general in four of the most opulent provinces of Abyssinia. The whole camp abandoned itself to joy.

On the 30th of May, nothing material happened; in a few days, they arrived at Gondar. The soldiers were all contented, because they were at home; but the officers, who saw farther, and had different countenances. Mr. Bruce, in particular, had very little reason to be pleased; he having undergone a constant series of dangers, and expences, he was returned home disappointed of his views in arriving at the source of the Nile, without any other advantage than a violent ague.

The whole army being in motion, Mr. Bruce, the evening before, taken leave of the king in an interview which cost him more than almost any other in his life. The substance was, that he was

through his majesty's influence, Fasil
some way for him to accomplish it:
trusted soon to see him return, when
would be easy; but, if he then was
fully persuaded he should never
solution to come again to Gondar.

The king seemed to take heart a
dence with which Mr. Bruce spoke o
" You, Yagoube, says he, could tell
pleased, what is to befall me; those
and those wheels, with which you are
looking at the stars, cannot be for a
for prying into futurity."—" Indeed,
Mr. Bruce, these are things by which
ships at sea, and by these we mark do
that we travel by land. But of the
Providence, whether they regard you
know no more than the mule upon
ride."—" Tell me then, I pray, tell
the reason you speak of my return as
" I speak said Mr. Bruce, from what

se, has yet reserved specially to himself the element of war; he it is who has styled himself the God of Battles."

The king was very much moved, and, as Mr. Bruce conceived, persuaded. He said, "O Yassé, go but with me to Tigré, and I will do you whatever you desire me."—"You do, Sir, Mr. Bruce, whatever I desire you, and more." He told you my reasons why that cannot be; he stay here a few months, and wait your return." The king then advised him to live entirely at ease with the Iteghé, without going out, till Fasil came to Gondar, and to send punctually how he was treated. Upon this they parted with inexpressible reluctance. He was a man worthy to reign over a better people. Mr. Bruce's heart was deeply penetrated with those marks of favour and condescension, which he had formerly received from him ever since he entered his palace.

Michael had always pretended, that, before he started on an expedition, a person, or spirit, appeared to him, who told him the issue and consequence of the measures he was then taking; this he imagined to be St. Michael the archangel, and relied very much upon this intercourse. In council the night before he left the city, when none but friends were present, he had told them, that his spirit had appeared some nights before, and ordered him, in his retreat, to follow the mountain of Wechné, and either stay or carry with him to Tigré the princes sequestered there. Nebrit Tecla, governor of Axum, with two sons, all concerned in the late king's death, were, it is said, strong advisers of this measure; but Ras Michael, probably satisfied with

with royal blood already. Kefla Yafous, and all the more worthy men of any consequence, acting on principle, absolutely refused to consent to it.

Though the queen shewed very great dislike to Mr. Bruce's attempting his journey at such a time, yet she did not positively command the contrary; he was prepared, therefore, to leave Gondar the 27th of October 1770, and thought to get a few miles clear of the town, and then make a long stretch the next day. But, about twelve o'clock, he was informed that the king had arrived with his army from Ras Michael, and was about to march from Tigré. He went immediately to the king, and found a messenger had been brought with provisions of bread and beer to be ready for thirty days. The king, who were coming with the king, as he had just decamped from before the mountain, and put Za Meshum to the sword, with every man that was in it.

Mr. Bruce had endeavoured to engage an old companion to accompany him on this attempt, as he had done on the former; but the recollection of past dangers and sufferings was not yet banished from his mind; and upon his asking him to go and see the head of the famous river, he coarsely answered, " Might the devil fetch him if ever he sought either his head or his tail again."

On the 28th of October, they left Gondar, passed the river Kahla at the foot of the town; and on the 30th reached Bamba, where Fasil was decamped.

They found Bamba a collection of villages, in a valley now filled with soldiers. They went to the left with their guide, and got a tolerable house, but the door had been carried away. Fasil's tent was pitched a little below them, larger than

an the others, but without farther distinction. Mr. Bruce immediately sent Ayto Aylo's servant, whom he had with him, to present his compliments, and acquaint him of his being on the road to visit him. He thought now all his difficulties were over: for he knew it was in his power to forward them to their journey's end; and he had some reason to expect his protection.

It was now, however, near eight at night of the 30th, before Mr. Bruce received a message to attend him. He repaired immediately to his tent, and after announcing himself, he waited about a quarter of an hour before he was admitted; he was sitting upon a cushion with a lion's skin upon it, and another stretched like a carpet before his feet, and had a cotton cloth, something like a dirty towel, wrapped about his head; his upper cloak, or garment, was drawn tight about him over his neck and shoulders, so as to cover his hands. Mr. Bruce bowed, and went forward to kiss one of them, but it was so entangled in the cloth, that he was obliged to kiss the cloth instead of the hand. This was done either as not expecting he should pay him that compliment, as he certainly should not have done, being one of the king's servants, if the king had been at Gondar; or else it was intended for a mark of disrespect, which was very much of a piece with the rest of his behaviour afterwards.

There was no carpet or cushions in the tent, and only a little straw, as if accidentally thrown thinly about it. Mr. Bruce sat down upon the ground, when Fasil, looking stedfastly at him, saying softly, *Endett nawi? Bogo nawi?* which, in Amharic, is, *How do you do? Are you very well?* Mr. Bruce made the usual answer, "Well."
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thank God. He again stooped, as for our traveller to speak; there was only one old man present, who was sitting on the floor mending a mule's bridle. What he was Mr. Bruce could not make out; he seemed, however, to be a very bad cobbler, and took no notice of them.

Ayto Aylo's servant, who stood behind Mr. Bruce, pushed him with his knee, as a sign that he should speak, which he accordingly began to do with some difficulty. "I am come, said he, by your invitation, & I have come, to pay my respects to you in your government, begging that you would satisfy my curiosity so far, as to suffer me to see the country of the Agows, and the source of the Nile, or Nile, part of which I have seen in the Abay! exclaimed he, with a pretended surprise, do you know what you are saying? Why, it is, God knows where, in the country of the Galla, wild, terrible people. The source of the Abay! Are you raving! repeats he again: Are you to get there, do you think, in a twelvemonth, or more, or when?" "Sir, said Mr. Bruce, the king told me it was near Sacala, and still nearer Geesh; both villages of the Agows, and both in your government." "And so you know Sacala and Geesh?" says he, whistling and half angry. "I can repeat the names that I hear, said Mr. Bruce, all Abyssinia knows the head of the Nile."—"Aye, says he, imitating my voice and manner, but all Abyssinia won't carry you there, that is, if you are resolved to the contrary." "If you are resolved to the contrary," said Mr. Bruce, they will not; I wish you to get the king so in time, then I should not attempt it; it was relying on you alone. I am far, confident, if all the rest of Abyssinia could

ld not protect me there, that your word singly
ld do it."

He now put on a look of more complacency.
ook you, Yagoube, says he, it is true I can do
and, for the king's sake who recommended it
ne, I would do it; but the Acab Salma has
t to me to desire me not to let you pass far-
r; he says it is against the law of the land to
mit Franks like you to go about the country,
that he has dreamed something ill will befall
if you go into Maitsha."

Mr. Bruce saw he intended to provoke him;
he had succeeded so effectually that he threw
off his guard, and forced a spirited reply to
the invectives against Europeans in general.

While they were engaged in a war of words,
which was neither prudent on the part of Mr.
Bruce, nor civil on the part of Fasil, our travel-
ler's nose burst out in a stream of blood; and,
in an instant, Aylo's servant took hold of him by
the shoulder, to hurry him out of the tent. Fasil
seemed to be a good deal concerned, for the blood
ran out in plenty; but it was soon staunch-
ed by washing his face with cold water. Having
returned to his tent, he sat down to recollect him-
self, and the more he calmed, the more he was
satisfied at being put off his guard; but it is
difficult to conceive the provocation without
feeling proved it. Besides, Mr. Bruce confesses,
that he was, from his infancy, of a sanguine, pas-
ionate disposition; very sensible of injuries that
were neither provoked nor deserved; but much
sensitive, from very early life, continual habits
of suffering in long and dangerous travels, where
nothing but patience would do, had, he flattered
himself, abundantly subdued his natural prone-

nels to feel offences, which, could he teach him, he could only revenge.

Mr. Bruce went to bed, and, sound sleep, was waked near midday by Fasil's servants, who brought each a live sheep; they said they had brought them and were come to ask how Mr. Bruce would stay all night to watch the behaviour of the thieves in the army; they brought their master's order for him to come in the morning to him, as he wanted to see him on his journey before he gave the Galla return. This dispelled every doubt in his spirits so much, that, out of the morning, he slept very little more.

Fasil, having sent for Mr. Bruce, and having invited him to partake of a dinner of honey and butter, and raw beef, and also some stewed dishes that were brought, was very hungry, having tasted nothing at dinner the day before; and he had exercised of body as well as of mind, and was very cheerful, every one saying that he was like the Agows, or of the Nile. Mr. Bruce thus addressed Fasil: "Your Majesty has said he, all the times I have seen him, is out of my power till now to render him any acknowledgment it is ordinary to do so at present, when they visit great nobles in the country, and ask favours of them. He then took a napkin, and opened it, and he seemed to have forgotten the napkin; but from that moment he seemed to have changed, he was like an antelope. Yagoube, said he, a present to you. He is sensible that is perfectly

commended to me by the king and the ras; we know, we are friends, and I would do twenty times as much for yourself, without recommendation from either; besides, I have not behaved to you like a great man."

It was not a very hard thing to conquer theseuples; he took the several pieces of the present one by one in his hands, and examined them; there was a crimson silk sash, made at Tunis, about five yards long, with a silk fringe of the same colour; the next was a yellow sash, with a silver-wrought fringe; the next were two Cyprus manufactured sashes, silk and cotton; the next was a Persian pipe, with a long pliable tube, or worm, covered with Turkey leather, with an amber mouth-piece, and a crystal vase for smoking tobacco through water, a great luxury in the east-countries; and lastly, were two blue bowls.

He shoved them from him, laughing, and said, "I will not take them from you, Yagoube; this is downright robbery; I have done nothing for you, which is a present for a king."—"It is a present to a friend, said Mr. Bruce, often of more consequence to a stranger than a king; I always kept your king, who is the stranger's best friend."

Being well pleased to have the acceptance of the present forced upon him, he folded up the skin with all the articles, and gave them to an officer; after which the tent was again cleared for consultation; and, during this time, he had called his man of confidence, whom he was to deal with them, and instructed him properly.

Mr. Bruce plainly saw that he had gained the ascendant; and, in the expectation of Ras Michel's speedily coming to Gondar, he was as

willing to be on his journey & was the other.

Fafil would have had him sit cushion with himself, which he Yagoube, said he, I am heartily not meet me at Baré before I see have received you as I ought & tormented with a multitude of who have turned my head, and about to dismiss. I go to Go to keep peace there, for the king Tacazzé has no other friend nothing to return you for the given me, for I did not expect like you here in the fields; but be back; we shall meet on the bar; the head of the Nile & the horseman, express, will arrive have given you a good man, & a country to be my servant; he will see you, and return you to a friend and mine, Shalaka Welled A dangerous part of the country and will carry you safe to Gondar present in his house; fear not for your safety: When will you row?"

Mr. Bruce replied, with much kindness, that he wished to proceed and that his servants were already on the way.

Fafil then said to Mr. Bruce, "Your clothes; they are not dirty, but new ones, you are my friend, I wanted you Geesh, where you must invest you." A number

he hurried him out; our traveller presently drew off his trowsers and his two upper garments, and remained in his waistcoat; these were instantly replaced by new ones, and he was brought back in a minute to Fasil's tent, with only a fine loose muslin under garment, or cloth, around him, which reached to his feet. Upon his returning back to the tent, Fasil took off the one that he had put on himself new in the morning, and put it about Mr. Bruce's shoulders with his own hand, his servants throwing another immediately over him, saying at the same time to the people, "Bear witness, I give to you, Yagonbe, Agow Geesh, as fully and freely as the king has given it me." Mr. Bruce bowed and kissed the hand, as is customary for feudatories, and he then pointed to him to sit down.

"Hear what I say to you, continued Fasil, I think it right for you to make the best of your journey now, for you will be the sooner back at Gondar. You need not be alarmed at the wild people who are going after you, though it is better to meet them coming this way, than when they are going to their homes; they are commanded by Welleta Yafous, who is your friend, and is very grateful for the medicines you sent him at Gondar: he has not been able to see you, being so much busied with those wild people; but he loves you, and will take care of you, and must give me more of that physic when we meet at Gondar." Mr. Bruce bowed, and he continued—"Hear me what I say; you see those ten people (our traveller never saw more thieves in his life)—these are all leaders and chiefs of the Galla—savages if you please; they are all your brethren. You may go through the

NOT THINK THE EUROPEANS OF THE GALLA COAST
hardships than those of Amhara." He t
bered something to them in Galla, wh
Bruce did not understand. They all a
by the wildest howl he ever heard, and
themselves upon the breast, apparently aff

"When Ras Michael, continued Fas
from the battle of Fagitta, the eyes of so
brethren and relations of these people
were pulled out, at Gondar, the day afte
rived, and they were exposed upon the b
the river Angrab to starve, where most o
were devoured by the hyænas; you took
them up to your house; nourished, cloth
ted, and kindly treated them." "T
now in good health, said Mr. Bruce, an
nothing: the Iteghé will deliver them
The only other thing I have done to the
I got them baptised: I do not know if t
displease them; I did it as an additional
tion to them. and to give them a title

Galla again, and they all gave another assent, and made a shew of kissing our traveller's hand. The Galla then sat down, and Mr. Bruce confessed, if they entertained any good will to him, it was not discernible in their countenances. After some other compliments from Fasil, who seemed to have changed his very nature since the first interview, our traveller having acknowledged the honour he did him, desired, as the greatest favour that he could shew him, to send him as conveniently as possible to the head of the Nile, and return him and his attendants in safety. This, replied Fasil, is no request, I have granted already; besides, I owe it to the commands of the king whose servant I am. Since, however, it is so much at your heart, go in peace, I will provide you with all necessaries. If I am alive, and governor of Damot, as you are, we all know, a prudent and sensible man, unsettled as the state of the country is, nothing disagreeable can befall you."

He then turned again to his seven chiefs, who got up, and forming a circle, Fasil and they repeated a prayer about a minute long; the Galla joining with great devotion. "Now, said Fasil, go in peace, you are a Galla; this is a curse on them, and their children, their corn, grass, and cattle, if ever they lift their hand against you or yours, or do not defend you to the utmost, if attacked by others, or endeavour to defeat any sign they may hear is intended against you." Upon this, Mr. Bruce offered to kiss his hand before he took his leave, and they all went to the door of the tent, where there was a very handsome grey horse, bridled and saddled. "Take the horse, said Fasil, as a present from me; it

not so good as your own, but, it is the horse which I rode upon when I came here to encamp; but do not yourself, drive it before you saddled it is; no man of Maitsha will touch that horse; it is the people of the houses Michael has burnt, that and not your friends the Galla.

Mr. Bruce then took the most respectful leave of him possible, of his new-acquired brethren, the Galla; and he might never see them again.

On the 2d of November, the journey in a direction southward, to the church of Boikon Abbo.

At three quarters after ten they crossed the small river Aro, which gives its name to, or receives its waters through which it passes. It is a brisk stream; and its banks are covered with verdure not to be described.

All the little territory of Aro is the most pleasant that our travellers have seen in Abyssinia; perhaps it is equal to any east can produce; the whole is full of acacia-trees, which, in the full sun produce the gum-arabic. Their branches dom above fifteen or sixteen feet high and spread wide at the top, while the trunks are far from a vertical line, leave for many a free space to walk in a cool, dappled shade. After passing the Aro, and coming to Goutto, they had, for the first time, a distinct view of the high mountains, the long-wished-for end of the

troublesome journey. Under this mountain are the fountains of the Nile; about thirty miles, as near as they could conjecture in a straight line. At two o'clock in the afternoon of the 2d of November, they came to the banks of the Nile; the passage is very difficult and dangerous, the bottom being full of holes made by considerable springs, light sinking sand, and, at every little distance, large rocky stones; the eastern side was muddy and full of pits. The river here is about two hundred and sixty feet broad, and very rapid; its depth about four feet in the middle, and the sides not above two. Its banks are of a very gentle, easy descent; the western side is chiefly ornamented with high trees of the salix, or willow, tribe, growing straight, without joints or knots, and bearing long-pointed pods full of a kind of cotton.

Our travellers, having passed the Nile, arrived at Goutto, the village so called, and took up their lodgings in the house of a considerable person, who had abandoned it upon their approach, thinking them part of Fasil's army. Though this habitation was of use in protecting them from the poor, yet it hurt them by alarming and so depriving them of the assistance of the opulent, such as the present owner, who, if he had known they were strangers from Gondar, would have willingly staid and entertained them, being a relation and friend of Shalaka Welled Amlac.

As they heard distinctly the noise of the cataract, and had still a full hour and a half of light, Mr. Bruce determined to visit the waterfall, lest he should be thereby detained next morning. *This, known by the name of the First Cataract of the Nile, did not, by its appearance, come*

to the id they had formed of it, being scarcely fifteen feet in height, and about sixty yards over; but in many places the sheet of water is interrupted, and leaves dry intervals of rock. The sides are neither so woody nor verdant as those of the cataract of the Atlar; and it is in every shape less magnificent, or deserving to be seen, than is the noble cataract at Alata, before described. Mr. Bruce, having satisfied his curiosity, galloped back the same road that he had come, without having seen a single person by the way.

On the 3d of Nov., at eight o'clock in the morning, they left the village of Goutto, and continuing their journey a short length arrived at a triple ridge of mountains, which composed one range behind the other, nearly in the shape of three concentric circles, which seemed to suggest an idea, that they are Mountains of the Moon, or the Montes Lunæ of antiquity, at the foot of which the Nile was said to rise; in fact, there are no others. Their mountains are all of them excellent soil, and every where covered with fine pasture; but as this unfortunate country had been for ages the theatre of war, the inhabitants have only ploughed and sown the top of them, out of the reach of enemies or marching armies.

Being arrived at the top of the mountain, they had a distinct view of all the remaining territory of Sacala, the mountain Geesh, and church of St. Michael Geesh. They saw, immediately below them, the Nile itself strangely diminished in size,

now only a brook that had scarcely water to turn a mill. Mr. Bruce could not satiate himself with the sight, revolving in his mind all those classical prophecies that had given the Nile up to perpetual obscurity and concealment. He was, how-

wakened out of this delightful reverie by
m that they had lost Woldo their guide.
h Mr. Bruce long had expected something
his behaviour, he did not think, for his
ke, it could be his intention to leave them.
s conjectures immediately followed; some
it he had resolved to betray and rob them;
onceived it was an instruction of Fasil's to
n order to their being treacherously mur-
some again supposed he was slain by the
casts. Mr. Bruce began to think that he
be ill, for he had before complained, and
e sickness might have overcome him upon
d; and this too, was the opinion of Ayto
servant, who said, however, with a signi-
look, that he could not be far off; they,
re, sent him, and one of the men that drove
des, back to seek after him; and they had
ne but a few hundred yards when they
him coming, but so worn out, that he said
d go no farther than the church, where
positively resolved to take up his abode
ght. Mr. Bruce felt his pulse, and saw,
ght, evidently, that nothing ailed him.
t losing his temper, however, Mr. Bruce
n firmly, that he perceived he was an impos-
t he should consider that he was a physician,
t the feeling of his hand told him as plain
ongue could have done, that nothing was
ter with him. He seemed dismayed after
d little, and only desired them to halt for
minutes, and he should be better; "for,
it requires strength in us all to pass an-
eat hill before we arrive at Geeth."

ok you, said Mr. Bruce, lying is to no
I know where Geeth is as well as you
IV. S



cured Woldo's lameness.

The whole company having passed the Nile, and Woldo, seeming to well as ever, they ascended a gentle rising the top of which is St. Michael's. The Nile here is not four yards over, and four inches deep, where they crossed; indeed, become a very trifling brook, but only over a bottom of small stones, black rock appearing amidst them: a place very easy to pass, and very little lower, full of inconsiderable ground rises gently from the river toward, full of small hills and eminences you ascend and descend almost immediately. The whole company had halted on the top of St. Michael's church, and there reached them without affecting any hurry.

Soon after, Woldo desired to speak to Bruce alone, taking Aylo's servant

said he, with a very confident look, you are right; I did counterfeit; but I thought it best to tell you I was ill, not to be obliged to discover another reason that has much more weight with me, why I cannot shew myself at the sources of the Nile, which I confess are not very distant, though I declare to you there is still a hill between you and those sources."—"And pray, said Mr. Bruce calmly, what is this mighty reason?" "You know as well as I, said he, that my master Fasil defeated the Agows at the battle of Benja. I was there with my master, and killed several men, among whom some were of the Agows of this village Geesh, and you know the usage of this country, when a man, in these circumstances, falls into their hands, his blood must pay for their blood."

Mr. Bruce burst out into a violent fit of laughter, which very much disconcerted him. "There, said our traveller, did not I say to you it was a lye that you was going to tell me? do not think I disbelieve or dispute with you the vanity of having killed men; many men were slain at that battle; somebody must, and you may have been the person who slew them; but do you think that I can believe that Fasil could rule the Agows in the manner he does, if he could not put a servant of his in safety among them twenty miles from his residence." "Come, come, said Aylo's servant to Woldo, did you not hear that truth and good behaviour will get you every thing you ask? Sir, continued he, I see this affair vexes you, and what this foolish man wants, will neither make you richer nor poorer; he has taken a great desire for that crimson silk which you wear about your middle. I told

to stay. You went back to Gondar; but he says he is to go farther than to the house of Shalaka Welleda, in Maitsha, and does not return to Gondar; I told him to stay till you had put your mind at ease, by seeing the fountains of the Nile, which you are so anxious about. He said, after that had happened, he was sure you would not give it him, for you seemed to think little of the cataract at Goutto, and of all the fine rivers and churches which he had shewn you; except the head of it, all be finer than all these, when, in reality, it be just like another river, you will then be dissatisfied, and not give him the sash."

Mr. Bruce thought there was something very natural in these suspicions of Woldo, and to ease them, our author having taken off his sash, "Here is your sash, Woldo, said he, but mark what I have said, and now most seriously repeat to you, truth and good behaviour will alone get any thing from me; but if in the course of this journey, you play one trick more, though ever so trifling, I will bring such a vengeance upon your head, that you shall not be able to find a place to hide it in."

He took the sash, but seemed terrified at the threat, and began to make apologies. "Come, come, said Mr. Bruce, we understand each other; no more words; it is now late, lose no more time, but carry me to Geesh, and the head of the Nile directly, without preamble, and shew me the all that separates me from it." He then carried our traveller round to the south side of the church, out of the grove of trees that surrounded it. "This is the hill, said he, looking archly, that, when you on the other side of it, was between you and fountain

ountains of the Nile; there is no other; look at that hillock of green sod in the middle of that sterile spot, it is in that the two fountains of the Nile are to be found: Geesh is on the face of the rock where yon green trees are; if you go the length of the fountains, pull off your shoes, for these people are all Pagans, and they believe nothing that you believe, but only in this river, to which they pray every day as if it were a god; but this perhaps you may do likewise." Half undressed as Mr. Bruce was, by loss of his shirt, and throwing his shoes off, he ran down the hill, and having reached the island of green turf, which was in form of an altar, apparently the work of art, he stood in rapture over the principal fountain, which rises in the middle of it.

It is easier to guess than describe the situation of Mr. Bruce's mind at that moment—standing on that spot which had baffled the genius, industry, and enquiry of both ancients and moderns, for the course of near three thousand years. Kings had attempted this discovery at the head of armies, and each expedition was distinguished from the last, only by the difference of the numbers which had perished, and agreed alone in the disappointment which had uniformly, and without exception, followed them all. Fame, riches, and honour, had been held out for a series of ages to every individual of those myriads of princes commanded, without having produced one man capable of gratifying the curiosity of his sovereign, or wiping off this stain upon the enterprise and abilities of mankind, or adding to his desideratum for the encouragement of geography.

Mr. Bruce now proceeds to describe the sources of the Nile, which have, as he says, remained to our days as unknown as they were to antiquity, no good or genuine voucher having yet been produced capable of proving that they were before discovered, or seen by the curious eye of any traveller, from the earliest ages to this day; and it is with confidence Mr. Bruce proposes to his reader, that he will consider him as still standing at these fountains, and patiently hear from him the recital of the instances of this the most famous, which are not to be found in books, by any other human authority whatever, by the care and attention he has paid to the subject, will, he hopes, be found satisfactory.

Divine honours are paid to the Agows of Darnot to the Nile; they worship the river, and thousands of cattle have been offered, and still are offered, to the spirit supposed to reside at its source. They are divided into clans, or tribes; and it is worthy of observation, that it is said there never was a feud, or hereditary animosity between any two of these clans; or, if the seeds of any such were sown, they did not vegetate longer than till the next general convocation of all the tribes, who meet annually at the source of the river, to which they sacrifice, calling it by name of the God of Peace.

Mesh, though not farther distant from these than hundred yards, is not in sight of the sources of Nile. The country upon the same plane with the fountains, terminates in a cliff about three hundred yards deep down to the plain of Assoa, the flat country continues in the same surface, at the same degree of elevation, till it meets the

again about seventy miles southward, after it has made the circuit of the provinces of Gojam and Damot.

A prodigious cave is in the middle of this cliff, in a direction straight north towards the fountains, whether the work of nature or art, Mr. Bruce cannot determine; it is a natural labyrinth, large enough to contain the inhabitants of the village and their cattle. In this large cliff, Mr. Bruce tired himself part of several days, endeavouring to reach as far northward as possible; but the air, when he had advanced something above one hundred yards, seemed to threaten to extinguish his candle by its dampness, and the people were besides not at all disposed to gratify his curiosity farther, after assuring him that there was nothing at the end more remarkable than what he then saw, which he had reason to believe was the case. The face of this cliff, which fronts to the south, has a most picturesque appearance from the plain of Affoa below, parts of the houses at every stage appearing, through the thickets of trees and bushes, with which the whole face of the cliff is thickly covered; impenetrable fences of thorn hide the mouths of the caverns above mentioned, even from sight; there is no other communication with the houses, either from above or below, but by narrow winding sheep-paths, which through these thorns are very difficult to be discerned, for all are allowed to be overgrown with the utmost wildness, as a part of their defence; lofty and large trees, most of them of the thorny kind, tower high up above the edge of the cliff, and seem to be a fence against people falling down into the plain; they are all at their proper season covered with
flowers

fix yards broad, in the line of the fount
two hundred and eighty-six yards two
the edge of the cliff above the house of
of the river, where Mr. Bruce resided.

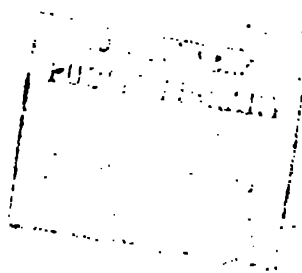
In the middle of the marsh, near th
of the mountain of Geeth, arises a l
a circular form, about three feet from
face of the marsh itself, though apparent
ed much deeper in it. The diameter
something short of twelve feet, it is su
by a shallow trench, which collects th
and voids it eastward; it is firmly br
fod or earthen turf, brought from the
constantly kept in repair; and this is
upon which all their religious ceremonie
formed. In the middle of this altar
obviously made, or at least enlarged, by
of man. It is kept clear of grafs, or otl
tic plants, and the water in it is perfe
and limpid, but has no ebullition or n
any kind of discoloration.



Bruce at the Fountains of the Nile.

Painted July 1. 1797. by E. Newbery. corner of St Pauls.

p. 400.



second fountain, about eleven inches in diameter; but this is eight feet three inches deep; and about twenty feet distant from the first, is the third source, its mouth being something more than two feet large, and it is five feet eight inches deep. Both these last fountains stand in the middle of small altars, made, like the former, of firm sod, but neither of them above three feet diameter, and having a foot of less elevation than the first. The altar in this third source seemed almost dissolved by the water, which in both stood nearly up to the brim; at the foot of each appeared a clear and brisk running rill; these uniting, joined the water in the trench of the first altar, and then proceeded directly out, pointing eastward, in a quantity that would have filled a pipe of about two inches diameter. The water from these fountains is very light and good, and perfectly tasteless; it was at this time most intensely cold, though exposed to the mid-day without shelter, there being no trees nor bushes near it.

On the 5th of November, the day after Mr. Bruce's arrival at Geesh, the weather perfectly clear, cloudless, and nearly calm, in all respects well adapted to observation, being extremely anxious to ascertain, beyond the power of controversy, the precise spot on the globe that this fountain had so long occupied unknown, he pitched his tent on the north edge of the cliff, immediately above the priest's house, and with the most minute exactness, determined the latitude of the place of observation to be 10 deg. 59 min. 10 sec. and the longitude to be 36 deg. 55 min. 30 sec. east of the meridian of Greenwich.

individuals, expecting daily that i
concerning his situation, which it wa
power to give them; some other tho
haps, still nearer the heart than thos
upon his mind, and forbade all approa
He was, at that very moment, in p
what had, for many years, been the pr
ject of his ambition and wishes; in
which from the usual infirmity of hun
follows, at least for a time, complete enjo
taken place of it. The marsh and the
upon comparison with the rise of m
rivers, became now a trifling object i
He remembered that magnificent sc
own native country, where the Twe
and Annan rise in one hill; he had se
of the Rhine and Rhone, and the mo
cent sources of the Soane; and he be
present mood, to treat the enquiry
source of the Nile as a violent effort o

indeed beset him through this half of his excursion; but it was still as true, that another Guide, more powerful than his own courage, health, or understanding, if any of these can be called man's own, had uniformly protected him in all that tedious half; he found his confidence not abated, that still the same Guide was able to conduct him to his now wished for home. He immediately resumed his former fortitude, considered the Nile, indeed, as no more than rising from springs, as all other rivers do, but widely different in this, that it was the palm for three thousand years held out to all the nations in the world as a *detur dignissimo*.

Mr. Bruce had procured from the English ships, while at Jidda, some quick-silver, perfectly pure, and heavier than the common sort; warming, therefore, the tube gently at the fire, he filled it with this quick-silver, and, to his great surprise, found that it stood at the height of twenty-two English inches; neither did it vary sensibly from that height any of the following days he staid at Geesh; and thence he inferred that, at the sources of the Nile, he was then more than two miles above the level of the sea. On the 6th of November, at a quarter past five in the morning, Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 44 deg. at noon 96 deg. and at sun-set 46 deg. It was, as to sense, cold at night, and still more so an hour before sun-rise.

The Nile, keeping nearly in the middle of the marsh, runs east for thirty yards, with a very little increase of stream, but perfectly visible, till met by the grassy brink of the land declining from Sacala. This turns it round gradually to the north-east, and then due north; and, in the two miles it flows in that direction, the river
cei



than double its quantity: and being under the hill whereon stands the church of Michael Sacala, about two miles from there becomes a stream that would run in a mill, shallow, clear, and running in a rocky bottom about three yards wide: it must be understood to be variable in quantity the season; and the present observation is applicable to 5th of November, when it ceased for several weeks.

Our traveller says, nothing can be more beautiful than this spot; the small rising hills and mountains were all thick-covered with vegetation, especially with clover, the largest and finest I saw; the tops of the heights crowned with a prodigious size; the stream, at which they were sitting, was limpid and clear as the finest crystal; the ford, covered with a bushy kind of tree that seemed to attain to no height, but rather to court the eye.

it, and thus it gets rid of the mountainous place of its nativity, and issues into the plain of Goutto, where is its first cataract. Arrived in the plain of Goutto, the river seems to have lost all its violence, and scarcely is seen to flow; but, at the same time, it there makes so many sharp unnatural windings, that it differs from any other river. Bruce ever saw, making about twenty sharp angular peninsulas in the course of five miles, through a bare, marshy plain of clay, quite destitute of trees, and exceedingly inconvenient and unpleasant to travel. After passing this plain, it turns due north, receives the tribute of many small streams, the Gometti, the Googueri, and the Kebezza, which descend from the mountains of Aformasha; and, united, fall into the Nile about twenty miles below its source; it begins here to run rapidly, and again receives a number of beautiful rivulets, which have their rise in the heights of Litchambara, the semicircular range of mountains that pass behind, and seem to inclose Aformasha. Here it begins to become a considerable stream; its banks high and broken, covered with old timber trees for the space of about three miles; it inclines to the north-east, and winds exceedingly, and is then joined by the small river Kiwa from the east. As the mere names of places, through which the Nile passes, can afford very little amusement to our readers, we shall only observe, that after washing Upper and Lower Egypt, it at last disembogues itself into the Mediterranean.

Mr. Bruce now proceeds to investigate the reason of the inundations of the Nile, and observes, that it is an observation, which holds good through the works of Providence, that although Ge

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beginning, gave an instance of his power, by creating the world with order, in the laws he has laid down for governing order and regularity in the creation; he has invariably effected by the least degree of power, those means that seem most of man's conception. But it seemed, according to the tenor of his ways, that he might save Egypt, without even dew, and subject to a nearly constant inundation, by so extraordinary an intervention as was the annual inundation, to make it the most fertile spot of the world.

Whatever were the conjectures of antiquity, modern travellers and philosophers, describing without system or prejudice, what their eye saw, have found that the inundation has been effected by natural means, perfectly consonant with the ordinary rules of Providence. They have found that the annual fall of the tropical rains produces the inundation at the same time, by the action of a wind which has been uniformly, without miracle, Egypt's being regularly overflowed. The Nile, being nearly stationary for some days before the equinox of Capricorn, the air there becomes rarefied, that the heavier winds, charged with watery particles, rush in upon it from the north-west, and from the Indian Ocean. The south wind, moreover, brings a heavy vapour, condensed in that high mountain not far south of the line, and which extends from a spine to the peninsula of Africa, and

northward with the other two, furnish wherewithal to restore the equilibrium.

Immediately after the sun has passed the line, he begins the rainy season to the southward, still as he approaches the zenith of each place; but the situation and necessities of this country being varied, the manner of promoting the inundation is changed. A high chain of mountains runs from about 6 deg. south all along the middle of the continent towards the Cape of Good Hope, and intersects the southern part of the peninsula, nearly in the same manner that the river Nile does the northern. A strong wind from the south, stopping the progress of the condensed vapours, dashes them against the cold summits of this ridge of mountains, and forms many rivers which escape in the direction either east or west, as the level presents itself. If this is towards the west, they fall down the sides of the mountains, into the Atlantic, and if on the east, into the Indian Ocean.

Three remarkable appearances attend the inundation of the Nile. Every morning in Abyssinia is clear, and the sun shines; about nine, a small cloud, not above four feet broad, appears in the east, whirling violently round as if upon an axis; but, arrived near the zenith, it first abates its motion, then loses its form, extends itself greatly, and seems to call up vapours from all opposite quarters. These clouds, having attained nearly the same height, rush against each other with great violence. The air, impelled before the heaviest mass, or swiftest mover, makes an impression of its own form in the collection of clouds opposite, and the moment it has taken

possible of the space made to receive it, most of the thunder possible to be conceived constantly falls, with rain; after some hours, it is again clear, with a wind at north, and is always disagreeably cold when the thermometer is below 50 deg.

The second thing remarkable, is the variation of the thermometer; when the sun is in the southern tropic, 16 deg. distant from the zenith of Gerri, it is seldom lower than seventy-two degrees; but it falls to fifty-nine degrees when the sun is immediately vertical; so happily counterbalancing the heat of a scorching sun.

The third is that remarkable stop in the extension of the rains northward, when the sun, that conducted the vapours to the line, and there seem, now more than ever, to be in possession of them, is here over-ruled suddenly, till, on its return to the zenith of Gerri, again it resumes absolute command over the rain; and recondenses it to the line, to furnish distant deluges to the southward.

Mr. Bruce says it is in February, March, or April only, the plague begins in Egypt. He does not consider it an endemical disease, but rather thinks it comes from Constantinople with merchants or passengers, and at this time of the year, the air having attained a degree of putridity proper to receive it by the long absence of dews, infection is thereto joined, and continues to rage till it is suddenly stopped by the dews occasioned by a refreshing mixture of rain water, which is poured out into the Nile at the beginning of the inundation.

The first and most remarkable sign of the change brought about in the air, is the sudden stopping of the plague at St. John's day: every person, though shut up from society for months before, buys, sells, and communicates with his neighbour without any sort of apprehension; and it was never known, as far as Mr. Bruce could learn upon fair enquiry, that any one fell sick of the plague after this anniversary.

Our traveller then mentions a circumstance, which is universally known, and cannot be denied. The Turks and Moors are known to be predestinarians; they believe the hour of man's death is so immutably fixed, that nothing can either advance or defer it an instant. Secure in this principle, they expose in the market-place, immediately after St. John's day, the clothes of the many thousands that have died during the late continuance of the plague, all which imbibe the moist air of the evening and the morning, are handled, bought, put on, and worn without any apprehension of danger; and though they consist of furs, cotton, silk, and woollen cloths, which are stuffs the most retentive of the infection, no accident happens to those who wear them from this their happy confidence.

Mr. Bruce now returns back to his guide, Woldo, whom they had left settling their reception with the chief of the village of Geesh. They found the measures taken by this man such as convinced them at once of his capacity and attachment. The miserable Agows, assembled all around him, were too much interested in the appearance our travellers made, not to be exceedingly inquisitive how long their stay was to be among them. They saw, by the horse driven before

them, that they belonged to Fasil, and suspected, for the same reason, that they were to maintain them; or, in other words, that they should live at discretion upon them, as long as they chose to tarry there; but Woldo, with great address, had dispelled those fears almost as soon as they were formed. He informed them of the king's grant to Mr. Bruce of the village of Geesh; that Fasil's tyranny and avarice would end that day, and another master was come to pass a cheerful time among them, without any tax to pay for every labour they were ordered to perform, and purchase all things for ready money. He added, moreover, that no military service was to be exacted from them, either by the king or governor of Damot, nor from their present master, as he had no enemies. They found this news had circulated with great rapidity, and they met with a hearty welcome.

Woldo had asked a house from the shum, or priest of the Nile, who very civilly had granted Mr. Bruce his own; it was just large enough to serve him, but they were obliged to take possession of four or five others, and they were scarcely settled in these, when a servant arrived from Fasil, to intimate to the shum his surrendry of the property and sovereignty of Geesh to Mr. Bruce, in consequence of a grant from the king; he brought with him a fine, large, milk-white cow, two sheep, and two goats. Fasil also sent them six jars of hydromel, fifty wheat loaves of very excellent bread, and to this Welleta Yafous had added two middle-borns of excellent strong spirits. Their wine is now perfectly at ease, and they passed a very evening.

The thum was struck with the appearance of our travellers wealth, and the generosity of their conduct, and told Woldo that he insisted, since they were in his houses, they would take his daughters for their housekeepers. The proposal was a most reasonable one, and readily accepted. He accordingly sent for three in an instant, and they delivered them their charge. The eldest took it upon her readily; she was about sixteen years of age, of a stature above the middle size, but she was remarkably genteel, and, colour apart, her features would have made her a beauty in any country in Europe; she was, besides, very sprightly; they understood not one word of her language, though she comprehended very easily the signs that they made. This nymph of the Nile was called, by nick name, Irepone, which signifies some animal that destroys mice.

After disposing of some of their stock in purchases, she thought herself obliged to render our travellers an account, and give back the residue at night Woldo, with a protestation that she had not stolen or kept any thing to herself. Mr. Bruce looked upon this regular accounting as an ungenerous treatment of their benefactress. Mr. Bruce called on Woldo, and made him produce a parcel that contained the same with the first commodities they had given her; and this consisted of beads, antimony, small scissars, knives, and large needles. He then brought out a packet of the same that had not been broken, and told her, they were intended to be distributed among her friends, and that they expected no account from her; on the contrary, that, after she had bestowed these to buy them necessaries, and for any purposes she pleased, he had still as many more to leave her
part

parting, for the trouble she had given her. Mr. Bruce often thought the head of the lion savage would have turned with the possession of so much riches, and so great confidence; and was impossible to be so blinded, as not to see that our traveller had already made great progress in her affections. To the number of trifles he had added one ounce of gold, value about fifty shillings sterling, which he thought would defray their expences all the time they staid; and being now perfectly arranged the economy of the family, nothing remained but to make the proper observations.

Once a year, upon the principal fountain altar already mentioned, on the first appearance of the dog-star, or, as others say, eleven days after the shum assembles the heads of the clans; and having sacrificed a black heifer that never bore calf, they plunge the head of it into this fountain; they then wrap it up in its own hide, so as not to be seen, after having sprinkled the hide with and without with water from the fountain. The carcase is then split in half, and cleaned with extraordinary care; and, thus prepared, it is laid upon the hillock over the first fountain, and washed all over with its water, while the elders or considerable people, carry water in their hands joined from the two other fountains; they then assemble upon the small hill a little west of Michael, where they divide the carcase into pieces corresponding to the number of the tribes, and each tribe has its privilege, or pretensions to particular parts. Geesh has a principal slice, though the most inconsiderable territory of the whole; Sacala has the next; and Zeegam, the most able of them all in power and riches.

the least of the whole. After having ate this Carcase raw, according to their custom, and drunk the Nile water, to the exclusion of any other liquor, they pile up the bones on the place where they sit, and burn them to ashes.

Having finished their bloody banquet, they carry the head, close wrapt from sight in the hide, into the cavern, which they say reaches below the fountains, and there, by a common light, without torches, or a number of candles, as denoting a solemnity, they perform their worship, the particulars of which Mr. Bruce never could learn; it is a piece of free masonry, which every body knows, and nobody ventures to reveal. At a certain time of the night they leave the cave; but our traveller could not learn what became of the head, whether it was ate, or buried, or how consumed. The Abyssinians have a story, probably created by themselves, that the devil appears to them; and with him they eat the head, swearing obedience to him upon certain conditions, that of sending rain, and a good season for their bees and cattle: however this may be, it is certain that they pray to the spirit residing in the river, whom they call the Everlasting God, Light of the World, Eye of the World, God of Peace, their Saviour, and Father of the Universe.

Their landlord, the shum, made no scruple of reciting his prayers for seasonable rain, for plenty of grass, for the preservation of serpents, at least of one kind of this reptile; he also deprecated thunder in these prayers, which he pronounced very pathetically with a kind of tone or song; he called the river, "Most high God, Saviour of the World;" of the other words Mr. Bruce could not well judge but by the interpretation of
World

Woldo. Those titles, however, of divi he gave to the river, he could perfect head without an interpreter, and for he is a voucher.

Mr. Bruce asked the priest, into v graces he had purposely insinuated ever any spirit had been seen by him swered, without hesitation, Yes; very He said he had seen the spirit the eve 3d, just as the sun was setting, un which he shewed our traveller at who told him of the death of a son, a a party from Fasil's army was coming; afraid, he consulted his serpent, who and heartily, from which he knew no to befall him from his visitors. Mr. I him, if he could prevail on the spirit to him. He said he could not venture to request. He said he was of a very grac and appearance; he thought rather middle age; but he seldom chose to l face; he had a long white beard, his like theirs, of leather, but like silk, of of the country. Mr. Bruce asked his was certain it was not a man? He laugh ther sneered, shaking his head and say no, it is no man, but a spirit." Mr. desired to know why he prayed again He said, Because it was hurtful to the great revenue being honey and wax: he prayed for serpents? he replied, B taught him the coming of good or evil they have all several of these creati neighbourhood, and the richer sort alw houses, whom they take care of, and undertake a journey, or any af

quence. They take this animal from his hole, and put butter and milk before him, of which he is extravagantly fond; if he does not eat, ill-fortune is near at hand.

The shum's name was Kefla Abay, or Servant of the River; he was a man about seventy, and rather infirm. He conceived that he might have had eighty-four or eighty-five children. That honourable charge which he possessed had been in his family from the beginning of the world, as he imagined. Indeed, if all predecessors had as numerous families as he, there was no probability of the succession devolving to strangers. He had a long white beard, and very moderately thick; an ornament rare in Abyssinia, where they have seldom any hair upon their chin. Round his body he had a skin wrapt, and tied with a broad belt. Above this he wore a cloak with the hood which covered his head; he was bare legged, but had sandals, much like those upon ancient statues; these, however, he put off as soon as ever he approached the bog where the Nile rises, which our travellers were all likewise obliged to do. They were allowed to drink the water, but make no other use of it. None of the inhabitants of Geesh wash themselves, or their clothes, in the Nile, but in a stream that falls from the mountain of Geesh down into the plain of Affo, which runs south, and meets the Nile in its turn northward, passing the country of the Gafars and Gongas.

The Agows, in whose country the Nile rises, are, in point of number, one of the most considerable nations in Abyssinia; when their whole force is raised, which seldom happens, they can bring to the field four thousand horse, and a great
numb

nor half that in breadth, yet Gondar, and neighbouring country, depend for the support of life, cattle, honey, butter, wheat, &c. and a number of such articles, upon traders who came constantly in succession, and fifteen hundred at a time, loaded with commodities, to the capital.

It may naturally be supposed, that, in a climate, such as that of a hundred miles from the capital, butter must melt, and be in putrefaction, consequently very near putrefaction is prevented by the root of an herb, called camoco, yellow in colour, and in a shape resembling a carrot; this they bruise and mix with their butter, and a very small quantity preserves it fresh for a considerable time.

Besides the market of Gondar, the neighbouring black savages, the woolly-headed Negroes, purchase the greatest part of their corn from them, and many others, which they bring from the capital when they return thence.

ded with a belt or girdle about their middle; the lower part of it resembles a large double petticoat, one ply of which they turn back over their shoulders, fastening it with a broach, or skewer, across their breast before. The women are generally thin, and, like the men, below the middle age. There is no such thing as barrenness known among them. They begin to bear children before eleven; they marry generally about that age, and are marriageable two years before; they generally close child-bearing before they are thirty. Besides what they sell, and what they pay to the governor of Damot, the Agows have a particular tribute which they present to the king: one thousand dabra of honey, each dabra containing about sixty pounds weight, being a large earthen vessel. They pay, moreover, fifteen hundred men, and one thousand ounces of gold. The officer that keeps the accounts, and sees the rents paid, is called Agow Miziker; his post is worth one thousand ounces of gold; and by this it may be judged with what economy this revenue is collected.

Though Mr. Bruce had with him two large posts sufficient for his people, he was advised to take possession of the houses, to secrete their mules and horses from thieves in the night, as also from the assaults of wild beasts, of which this country is full. Almost every small collection of houses has behind it a large cave, the subterraneous dwelling, dug in the rock, of a prodigious capacity, and which must have been a work of great labour. It is not possible, at this distance of time, to say whether these caverns were the ancient habitation of the Agows when they were Troglodytes, or whether they were intended for retreats.

upon any alarm of an irruption of the Galla into their country.

On the 9th of November, Mr. Bruce having finished his remarks relating to these remarkable places, traced again on foot the whole course of this river from its source to the plain of Gondar. He was unattended by any one, having with him only two hunting-dogs, and his gun in his hand. The quantity of game of all sorts, especially of the deer kind, was, indeed, surprising; but though he was, as usual, a very successful sportsman, he was obliged, for want of help, to leave each day where he fell.

Our travellers now began to think of departing. They had passed their time in perfect harmony; the address of Woldo, and the great attachment of their friend Irepone, had kept their house in a cheerful abundance. They had lived, it is true, too magnificently for philosophers, neither idly nor riotously; and he believes, no sovereign of Geeth be again so popular in his reign over his subjects with greater mildness. Mr. Bruce had practised medicine gratis, and killed, for three days successively, a cow each for the poor and the neighbours. He had clothed the high priest of the Nile from head to foot, and also his two sons, and decorated two of his daughters with beads of all the colours of the rainbow; adding every other little present that seemed fond of, or that our travellers thought would be agreeable. As for their amiable Irepone, they had reserved for her the choicest of their presents, the most valuable of every article they had with them, and a large proportion of every one of them; they also gave her some gold. More generous and nobler in her sentiments

than they, seemed to pay little attention to what announced to her the separation from her friends; she tore her fine hair, which she had every day before braided in a newer and more graceful manner; she threw herself upon the ground in the house, and refused to see our travellers mount on horseback, or take their leave, and came not to the door till they were already set out; then followed them with her good wishes and her eyes as far as she could see or be heard.

Mr. Bruce took his leave of Kefla Abay, the venerable priest of the most famous river in the world, who recommended him with great earnestness to the care of his god, which, as one of our travellers humorously enough observed, meant nothing less than that he hoped the devil would take him. All the young men in the village, with lances and shields, attended them to St. Michael Sacala, that is, to the borders of their country, and end of Mr. Bruce's little sovereignty.

On the 10th of November 1770, our travellers left Geesh on their return to Gondar. Next day Mr. Bruce settled with his former guide, Woldo, to his perfect satisfaction, and cancelled entirely the memory of some disagreeable things passed. He then consigned our traveller very solemnly to Ayto Aylo's servant, in presence of Welled Amlac, and then took his leave.

On the 12th of November, they set out from the hospitable house of Shalaka Welled Amlac. Their landlord accompanied them in person to the ford; and by this, and his readiness to shew them what he thought worthy their curiosity, and by his care in ascertaining for them the distances and situations of places, he gave them a certain

generally of these small towns or villages, because inhabited by Mahomedans, frugal, intelligent, and industrious.

Their conductor, Welled Amlac, well in mind of the service he had to perform, and they were not unmindful of the service they had been received with very great hospitality at this place, and it is incredible with what voracity he swallowed near a pound of raw meat from the buttocks of the animal yet without any ill effects. Some horns of hydromel, he passed down his throat, where he was received with still greater hospitality, if possible, by Welleta Michael, who began again to eat the raw meat with as much appetite as keen as if he had fasted for some days. He then consigned our travellers to the care of Michael, his friend, who furnished them with a servant to conduct them on their way. Welled Amlac himself remained that night at the place, and the place our travellers

projected expedition, to the fountains of the Nile, having, in their return home, made as it were, the chord of the arch of their former journey, or about ninety-three miles.

It was not till the 23d of November, owing to the troubles that then reigned in the capital of Abyssinia, that Mr. Bruce saw the Iteghé. When he came first into her presence, he kneeled, with his forehead to the ground. She put on a very serious countenance, and, without desiring him to rise, said gravely to her people about her, "There, see that madman, who in times like these, when we the natives of the country are not safe in our own houses, rashly, against all advice, runs out into the fields to be hunted like a wild beast by every robber, of which this country is full." She then made him a sign to rise, which he did, and kissed her hand. "Madam," said he, "if I did this, it was in consequence of the good lessons your majesty deigned to give me. I have heard you say, when you was threatened by a multitude of powerful enemies, that you was not afraid,—you was in God's hands, and not in theirs. Now, Madam, Providence has hitherto protected you: I have, in humble imitation of you, had the same Christian confidence, and I have succeeded; I knew I was in God's hands, and therefore valued not the bad intentions of all the robbers in Abyssinia."

Mr. Bruce next details the history of the Abyssinians during his residence among them. But, as this contains only a detail of horrid rebellions, battles, blood, and slaughter, our readers can take little interest in it. We shall only observe, that Mr. Bruce seems to have shewn great courage in several instances, and on that account, was p
fer

reluctance," says Mr. Bruce, "that being of every thing, I sold a great part of this able distinction at Sennaar in my return. It is hoped my successors will never have excuse I had for farther diminishing this able monument which I have left them."

After the troubles had ceased, and Ras of whom we had before spoken, was a prisoner from Gondar, the queen returned to Addis Ababa, where Mr. Bruce passed a great part of his time; but his health declining every day, he was obliged to leave the country, and obtained, with great difficulty, liberty to attempt his return home. The king, to the hundred exceptions and provisos, had been brought to give an unwilling consent.

Captain Thomas Price, of the Lion of Judah, had been obliged to continue at Jidda for a season after Mr. Bruce went from thence to Aden. He had already heard once from Mr. Bruce, and now a second time. He informed Mr. Bruce that his countrymen had been in the greatest

crowns, desiring his draft to be sent to Ibrahim, directed to him or his brother at Bombay, and to make it payable to a gentleman of that name who lived in Smithfield.

Mr. Bruce had made a shew, and, as he himself says, with some degree of ostentation, of sending his gold chain to Cairo by the hand of Metical Aga's servant; declaring always that it was the only piece of Abyssinian gold he should carry out of the country, which he was to leave, both in fact and appearance, a *pauper*. Mules are the only beasts for carriage commonly used in Abyssinia, though bulls and cows, of a particular kind, are bought for the purpose by carriers, merchants, and such like, in that country, especially near the mines or quarries of salt; they are very slow, however, and capable of no great burden, though very easily maintained. Mr. Bruce had abundance of mules of his own for carrying his instruments and baggage; and the king and Iteghé furnished him with others for his own riding. He had, besides, two favourite horses, which he intended to attempt to carry home, foolishly enough; for though he thought in his own mind, that he was sufficiently informed of, and prepared for all sorts of hardships, he had not foreseen the hundredth part of the difficulties and dangers that were then awaiting him.

Mr. Bruce's whole attention was now taken up in preparations for his return through the kingdom of Sennaar and the Desert. Mr. Bruce does not wish to take up the reader's time with a long narrative of leave-taking, or what passed between him and those illustrious personages, with whom he had lived so long in the most perfect and cordial friendship. Men of little and envious minds

ed Tenfa Christos, with whom he had
ference. "I beg of you," said he, "Y
a favour, to tell me, now you are imme
ing away from this country, and you c
me without fear, Are you really a Frank
not?"—"Sir," said Mr. Bruce, "I do
what you mean by fear; I came he
mended, and was well received by the
Ras Michael: I neither taught nor pre
man ever heard me say a word about
cular mode of worship; and as often
has called me, I have never failed to att
service as it is established in this count
is the ground of fear that I should ha
under the king's protection, and custom
finia?"—"True, replied Tenfa Christo
say you should be alarmed; whatever
is I would defend you myself; the Iteg
always spoke well of you; but will you
old man's curiosity, in telling me whet
you really are a Frank Catholic, or a

and as long as their teachers confine themselves to what the sacred books have told them, they can teach no ill, and therefore deserve no punishment. No religion, indeed, teaches a man evil; but, when forgetting this, they preach against government, curse the king, absolve his subjects from allegiance, or incite them to rebellion, as being lawful, the sword of the civil power cuts them off, without any blame falling upon their religion, because these things were done in contradiction to what their priests, from the scripture, should have taught them were truly the tenets of that very religion." The Iteghé now interposed, and the subject was dropped.

Mr. Bruce then got up, and, passing to the other side of the room, he stood by Tenfa Christos, saying to him, "And now, holy father, I have one last favour to ask you, which is your forgiveness, if I have at any time offended you; your blessing, now that I am immediately to depart, if I have not; and your prayers while on my long and dangerous journey, through countries of infidels and pagans."

A hum of applause sounded all throughout the room. The Iteghé said something, but what, Mr. Bruce did not hear. Tenfa Christos was surprised apparently at Mr. Bruce's humility, which he had not expected, and cried out with tears in his eyes, "Is it possible, Yagoube, that you believe my prayers can do you any good?"—"I should not be a Christian, as I profess to be, father," replied Mr. Bruce, "if I had any doubt of the effect of good men's prayers." So saying, he stooped, to kiss his hand, when he laid a small iron cross upon his head; and, to our traveller's great surprise, instead of a benediction, he repeated the Lord's prayer. Mr. Bru

wa he would have kept him stooping
 he add the ten commandments likewise
 wher included, "Gzier y' Baracuc," May
 blefs after which, Mr. Bruce made his o
 fance : Iteghé, and immediately withdre

Two greasy monks, however, had pla
 themf in his way as he went out, that
 might the credit of giving him the blef
 likewise ter Tenfa Christos. As he had
 little fai in the prayers of these drones, G
 had some their greasy hands
 sleeves ; L ning this disagree
 gauntlet, L his blessing in Eng

—"Lord fend you alter, as he did to A
 Salama," meaning acab Saat. But t
 thinking he was re nding them to the
 triarch Abba Salama, onounced, at rand
 with great seeming dev n, their Amen,—Sot

On the 26th of December, 1771, Mr. Bruce
 Gondar. The king had delayed his setting
 by several orders sent him in the evening
 day ; and he plainly saw there was some mea
 in this, and that he was wishing to throw c
 culties in the way, till some accident, or suc
 emergency, never wanting in that country, sh
 make it absolutely impossible for him to l
 Abyssinia. When, therefore, the last me
 came to Koscam on the 25th, at night, Mr. B
 returned his respectful duty to his majesty,
 him in mind of his promise, and entreated
 to leave him to his fortune ; that his serv
 were already gone, and he was resolved to se
 next morning.

The next morning early, Mr. Bruce was
prised at the arrival of a young nobleman,
 made one of his bed-chamber, with five

horse. As he was satisfied, that leaving Abyssinia, without parade, as privately as possible, was the only way to pass through Sennaar; he therefore insisted upon none of his friends accompanying him, and he begged to decline this escort. It was, however, one o'clock before Mr. Bruce set out, by the west side of Debra Tzai, having the mountain on their right hand. From the top of that ascent, they saw the plain and flat country below, black, and, in its appearance, one thick wood, which some authors have called lately, the Shumeta, or Nubian Forest.

All the disasters which Mr. Bruce had to dread in the course of the journey, which he had thus begun, now presented themselves to his mind, and made, for a moment, a strong impression upon his spirits. But it was too late to draw back; they dye was cast, for life or for death; home was before him, however distant; and if, through the protection of Providence, he should be fortunate enough to arrive there, he promised himself the applause of his country, and of all unprejudiced men of sense and learning in Europe; for having, by his own private efforts alone, completed a discovery, which had, from early ages, defied the address, industry, and courage of all the world.

Having rather hardened, than comforted his heart by these reflections, he now advanced down the steep side of the mountain, through very strong and rugged ground, torn up by the torrents that fall on every side from above. This is called the Descent of Moura; and though both they and their beasts were in great health and spirits, *they could not, with their utmost endeavours, advance much more than one mile an hour.* To

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.

ks, one of whom only was his servant, nearly blind, flying from poverty and a janizary, who had come to Abyssinia from the Galla, and Copht who left them at Sebel, and some common men who took of the beasts, and were to go no farther. Tcherkin, were his only companions in this and a perilous journey.

On the 28th, they entered a thick wood, going round a hill, in a south-east direction, into the plain where they were surprised by a great number of men, armed with lances, shields, and large clubs or spears, who rained a shower of stones towards them, they were at such a distance, that all of them fell greatly short of the mark. Mr. Bruce, then ordered two shots to be fired over their heads, not with any intention to hurt them, but to make them hear, by the balls whistling among the leaves of the trees, that their guns carried farther than any of their slings; and that, distant as they were, they were not in safety, if they had disposition to do harm. They seemed to understand their meaning, by gliding through the bushes, and appearing at the top of a hill further off, where they continued hooping, and dancing, and making signs.

While resting on the banks of the river, they had been overtaken by two men and two women, who were driving two loaded oxen and were going to Tcherkin; they had been obliged to leave to keep company with our travellers, for fear of danger on the road. One of these women understood the language of Tigré, was sent as a messenger to the armed strangers to inform them that they shewed the smallest appearance of

insolence, either by approaching the tent, or flinging stones that night, the next morning, when the horse he expected were come up, he would burn their town, and put every man of them to the sword. A very submissive answer was sent back, with a heap of lies in excuse of what they called their mistake. Two of his Abyssinian servants coming up soon after, went boldly, one to each village, to bring two goats, some jars of bouza, and to prepare fifty loaves of bread for next morning. The goats were dispatched instantly, so was the bouza ; but when the morning came, the people had all fled from their houses, without preparing any bread. These villages were called Gimbaar.

On the 29th, they left the inhospitable villages of Gimbaar, not without entertaining some apprehensions of meeting the inhabitants again in the course of the day. However, they met with no opposition, but proceeded on to Waalia ; and at half past four in the afternoon encamped in the market-place.

Waalia is a collection of villages, each placed upon the top of a hill, and inclosing, as in a circle, an extensive flat piece of ground about three miles over, on which a very well-frequented market is kept. The name is given it from a species of small pigeons, with yellow breasts and variegated backs, the fattest and best of all the pigeon kind.

On the 30th, they set out from Waalia, and proceeded along the Mai Lumi, or the River of Lemons. A prodigious quantity of fruit loaded the branches of these trees ; and these were in all stages of ripeness. Multitudes of blossoms covered the opposite part of the tree, and sent forth

the most delicious odour possible. They provided themselves amply with this fruit. The natives make no use of it, but our travellers found it a great refreshment to them, both mixed with their water, and as sauce to their meat, of which they had now no great variety since their onions had failed them, and a supply of them was no longer to be procured.

They soon after reached the pass of Dav-Dohba, a very narrow defile, full of strata of rocks, like steps of stairs, but so high, that, without leaping, or being pulled up, no horse or mule can ascend. Besides, the descent, though short, is very steep, and almost choked up by huge stones, which the torrents, after washing the earth from about them, had rolled down from the mountain above. Both sides of the defile are covered thick with wood and bushes, especially that detestable thorn the kantuffa, so justly reprobated in Abyssinia. Having extricated themselves successfully from this pass, their spirits were so elated, that they began to think their journey now at an end, not reflecting how many passes, full of real danger, were still before them.

On the morning of the 2d of January, 1772, Mr. Bruce having dressed himself according to the custom of the country, came out of the tent to mount his mule for Tcherkin. He now saw Confu's servant, whose name was Welleta Yalous, pulling the Guinea-fowls and pigeons out of the pannier where his servants had put them, and scattering them upon the ground, saying to those who interrupted him, "Throw away this carrion; you have a better breakfast and dinner, to-day;" saying to Mr. Bruce, more than ordinarily seeing him dressed, and that he could

to use the Abyssinian habit, he jumped up on his mule, and appeared in great spirits.

They passed through the midst of several small villages; and at last Mr. Bruce pitched his tent in the market-place at Tcherkin, which seemed a beautiful lawn laid out for pleasure, shaded with old trees, of an enormous height and size, and crossed by a small but very limpid brook, running over beds of pebbles as white as snow.

The impatient Welleta Yafous hurried our traveller through a very narrow and crooked path on the side of the mountain, at every turn of which was placed a great rock or stone, the situation for muskets to enfilade the different stages of the road below, where it was straight for any distance. They at last reached the outer court of the master's palace, where Mr. Bruce saw a great number of his old acquaintance, whom he had known at Gondar, and who all welcomed him with the greatest demonstrations of joy, as if he had come from a long journey.

Mr. Bruce was then taken to an inner apartment, where, to his great surprise, instead of Ay-Confu, he saw his mother, Ozoro Esther, sitting on a couch, and at her feet the secretary's daughter, the beautiful Tecla Mariam; and, soon after, the secretary himself, and several others belonging to the court. After having made a profound reverence, "Ozoro Esther, said Mr. Bruce, I cannot speak for surprise. What is the meaning of your having left Gondar so suddenly to come into this wilderness?" "There is nothing so strange in this," replied Ozoro Esther, "the troops of Begemder have taken away my husband, Ras Michael, God knows where; and, therefore, being now a single man, I am resolved to go to Jerusalem to pray."

for my and, and to die there, and be buried in the sepulchre. You would not stay with us, so we are going with you. Is there any thing surprizing in all this?"

"But tell me, truly, said Tecla Mariam, you that know every thing, while peeping and poring through the long glasses, did not you learn the stars that we were to meet you here?"—"Madam, answered Mr. Bruce, if there was one in the firmament that had announced to me such agreeable news, I should have relapsed into the old idolatry of the East, and worshipped the star for the rest of my life." Breakfast now came in; the conversation took a very lively turn, and from the secretary of the embassy he learned that the matter stood thus: "The king, restoring the villages to the Iteghé, according to the stipulations of his last treaty with Persia, thought that he might so far infringe upon it, from gratitude to Ras Michael, as to give part of the number of Ozoro Esther, the Iteghé's daughter; and Ay Confu, going to Tcherkin to hunt, he took his mother along with him to put her in possession, for the Iteghé's people were not lambs, nor did they pay much regard to the orders of the king, nor to that of the Iteghé their mistress."

They now wanted only the presence of Ay Confu to make their happiness complete; he came about four, and with him Ayto Engedar and a great company. There was nothing but merriment on all sides. Seven ladies, relations and friends of Ozoro Esther, came with Ay Confu; and Mr. Bruce confesses this to have been one of the happiest moments of his life. He quit the disastrous journey he had before him, without the dangers that awaited him.

Ayto Confu's house at Tcherkin is built on the edge of a precipice, which takes its name from the mountain Amba Tcherkin. It is wholly constructed of cane, the outer wall being composed of fascines of canes, so neatly joined together as not to be penetrated by rain or wind. The entry is from the south side of it, very crooked and difficult, half way up the rock. On the east, is a very plentiful spring, which furnishes the house with excellent water. The inside of the state rooms were hung with long stripes of carpeting, and the floors covered with the same.

About Tcherkin is great plenty of game of every sort, elephants, rhinoceroses, and a great number of buffaloes, which differ nothing in form from the buffaloes of Europe or of Egypt, but very much in temper and disposition. They are fierce, and fearless of danger; and, contrary to the practice of any other creature not carnivorous, they attack the traveller and the hunter equally, and it requires address to escape from them. They seem, however, to be, of all others, the creature the most given to ease and indulgence. They lie under the most shady trees, near large pools of water, of which they make constant use, and sleep soundly all the day long. The flesh of the female is very good when fat, but that of the male, hard, lean and disagreeable. Their horns are used in various manners by the turners, in which craft the Abyssinians are very expert.

Though they were all happy to their wish in this enchanting mountain, the active spirit of Ayto Confu could not rest; he was come to hunt the elephant, and hunt him he would. All those that understood any thing of this exercise had

bled, from a great distance, to meet Ayto Confu Tcherkin. Mr. Bruce, though he says he should have been very well contented to have remained where he was, yet the preparations for sport of so noble a kind roused his spirits, and made him desirous to join in it. On the other hand, the ladies all declared, that they thought, by leaving them, they were devoting them to death or slavery; they did not doubt, if the Shangalla missed the hunting party, they would come forward to the mountain and slay them. But a sufficient prison was left, and they were well assured that the Shangalla, being so many were out, and armed, and knowing the numbers, would take care to keep close in. As far out of their way.

On the 6th, an hour before day, after a hearty breakfast, they mounted on horseback, to the number of about thirty belong to Ayto Confu. At there was another body, both of horse and foot, which made hunting the elephant their particular business. These men dwell constantly in the woods, and know very little of the use of lead, living entirely upon the flesh of the beasts, they kill, chiefly that of the elephant or rhinoceros. They are exceedingly thin, light, and agile, both on horseback and on foot; are very swarthy, though few of them black; none of them woolly-headed, and all of them have European features. They are called Agageer, a name of their profession of their nation, which comes from the Agar, and signifies to hough or ham-string a sharp weapon. More properly it means, and, the cutting the tendon of the heel, and is characteristic of the manner in which they kill the elephant.

Having

Having come up with several elephants, the agageer nearest Mr. Bruce, presently lamed his elephant, and left him standing. Ayto Engedan, Ayto Confu, Guebra Mariam, and several others, fixed their spears in another, before the agageer had cut his tendons. Mr. Bruce's agageer, however, having wounded the first elephant, failed in the pursuit of the second; and, being close upon him at entering the wood, he received a violent blow from a branch of a tree which the elephant had bent by his weight, and, after passing, allowed it to replace itself, when it knocked down both the riders, and very much hurt the horse. This, indeed, is the great danger in elephant hunting; for some of the trees, that are dry and short, break, by the violent pressure of so immense a body moving so rapidly, and fall upon the pursuers, or across the roads. Dexterous, too, as the riders are, the elephant sometimes reaches them with his trunk, with which he dashes the horse against the ground, and then sets his feet upon him, till he tears him limb from limb with his proboscis: a great many hunters die this way. Besides this, the soil, at this time of the year, is split into deep chasms, or cavities, by the heat of the sun, so that nothing can be more dangerous than the riding.

As soon as the elephant is slain, they cut the whole flesh off his bones into thongs, like the reins of a bridle, and hang these, like festoons, upon the branches of trees, till they become perfectly dry, without salt, and they then lay them by for their provision, in the season of the rains.

There now remained but two elephants of those that had been discovered, which were a she one with a calf. The agageer would willingly ha

life alone, as the teeth of the female are very sharp, and the young one is of no sort of value for food, its flesh shrinking much upon dry-

But the hunters would not be limited in sport. The people having observed the retreat of her retreat, thither they eagerly follow-

She was very soon found, and as soon lame the agageers; but when they came to wound with the darts, as every one did in their turn, to their very great surprise, the young one which had been suffered to escape unheeded and unpursued, came out from the thicket apparently in great anger, running upon the horses and men with all the violence it was master of. Mr. Bruce was amazed, and afflicted, at seeing the great affection of the little animal defending its wounded mother, heedless of its own life or safety. He, therefore, cried to them to spare the mother, though it was then too late; and the calf had made several rude attacks upon Mr. Bruce, which he avoided without difficulty. At last, making one of its attacks upon Ayto Engedon, it hurt him a little on the leg; upon which he thrust it through with his lance, and it then fell dead before its wounded mother, whom it had so affectionately defended.

“ Here, Mr. Bruce says, is an example of a beast, a young one too, possessing abstracted sentiments to a very high degree. By its flight on the first appearance of the hunters, it is plainly apprehended danger to itself; it also reflects upon that of its mother, which was the cause of its return to her assistance. This affection, or duty, or let us call it any thing we please, except instinct, was stronger than the fear of danger, and it must have conquered that fear by re-

tion before it returned, when it resolved to make its best and last efforts, for it never attempted to fly afterwards."

Mr. Bruce and his party then sought about for the buffaloes and rhinoceroses; but though there was plenty of both in the neighbourhood, they could not find them; their noise and shooting in the morning having probably scared them away. One rhinoceros was only seen by a servant. They returned in the evening to a great fire, and lay all night under the shade of trees.

The next morning they were on horseback by the dawn of day, in search of the rhinoceroses, many of which they had heard make a very deep groan and cry as the morning approached; several of the agageers then joined them; and, after they had searched about an hour in the very thickest part of the wood, one of them rushed out with the greatest violence, crossing the plain. But though he ran, or rather trotted, with surprising speed, considering his bulk, he was, in a very little time, transfixcd with thirty or forty javelins; which so confounded him, that he ran into a deep hole, ditch, or ravine, a *cul de sac*, without outlet, breaking above a dozen of the javelins as he entered. Here they thought he was caught as in a trap, for he had scarce room to turn; when a servant, who had a gun, standing directly over him, fired at his head, and the animal fell immediately, to all appearance dead. All those on foot now jumped in with their knives to cut him up, and they had scarce begun, when the animal recovered so far, as to rise upon his knees; happy then was the man that escaped first; and had not one of the agageers, who was himself engaged in the ravine, cut the sinew

the hind leg as he was retreating, there have been a very sorrowful account of the hunters that day.

After having dispatched him, Mr. Bruce curious to see what wound the shot had given which had operated so violently upon so huge animal; and he doubted not it was in the leg. But it had struck him no where but upon the point of the foremost horn, of which it had sliced off above an inch; and this occasioned a concussion that had stunned him for a minute till the bleeding had recovered him. Mr. Bruce preserved the horn from curiosity, and has it now by him.

They had not gone far before a wild boar appeared between Mr. Bruce and Ayto Engedan, whom our traveller immediately killed with his javelin. This was the sport Mr. Bruce had been years used to in Barbary, and was infinitely more dexterous at it than any of the present company. This put him more upon a par with his companions, who had not failed to laugh at him, at his horse's refusal to carry him near either the elephant or rhinoceros.

A boar, roused on their right, had wounded a horse and a footman of Ayto Confu, and escaped. Two buffaloes were found by them on the right, one of which wounded a horse and a wife. Ayto Confu, Engedan, Fuebra Mar, and Mr. Bruce, killed the other with equal skill and of merit, without being in any sort of danger. All this was in little more than an hour, and their sport seemed to be at the best; their horses were considerably blown, not tired; and though they were beating homewards, still they were very keenly for more game. And

a man of approved courage, was on the left among the bushes, and some large, beautiful, tall spreading-trees, close on the banks of the river Bedowi, which stands there in pools. Whether the buffalo found Ammonios, or Ammonios the buffalo, is what they could never get him to explain to them; but he had wounded the beast slightly on the buttock, which, in return, had gored his horse, and thrown both him and it to the ground. Luckily, however, his cloak had fallen off, which the buffalo tore in pieces, and employed himself for a minute with that and with the horse, but then left them, and followed the man as soon as he saw him rise and run. Ammonios got behind one large tree, and from that to another still larger. The buffalo turned very awkwardly, but kept close in pursuit; and there was no doubt he would have worn out their companion, who was not used to such quick motion. Ayto Engedan, who was near him, and might have assisted him, was laughing, ready to die at the droll figure a man of Ammonios's grave carriage made, running and skipping about naked, with a swiftness he had never practised all his life before; and Engedan continued calling to Confu to partake of the diversion.

The moment Mr. Bruce heard his repeated cries, he galloped out of the bushes to the place where he was, and could not help laughing at his ridiculous figure, very attentive to the beast's motions, which seemed to dodge with great address, and keep to his adversary with the utmost obstinacy. As soon as Engedan saw Mr. Bruce, he cried, "Yagoube! for the love of Christ! for the love of the blessed Virgin! don't interfere till Confu comes up." Confu immediately

almost impenetrable, woods, full of thorns; and in two hours came to the bed of a torrent, though in appearance dry, upon digging with their hands in the loose sand, they found great plenty of fresh water, exceedingly well tasted, being sheltered by projecting rocks from the action of the sun. This is called Surf el Shekh. Here they filled their girbas, for there is very little good water to be found between this and Teawa. A girba is an ox's skin squared, and the edges sewed together very artificially by a double seam, which does not let out water, much resembling that upon the best English cricket-balls. An opening is left in the top of the girba, in the same manner as the bung-hole of a cask. Around this the skin is gathered to the size of a large handful, which, when the girba is full of water, is tied round with whip-cord. These girbas generally contain about sixty gallons each, and two of them are the load of a camel. They are then all besmeared on the outside with grease, as well to hinder the water from oozing through, as to prevent its being evaporated by the action of the sun, which, in fact, happened to them twice, so as to put them in imminent danger of perishing with thirst.

Yatine had provided a camel and two girbas, as well as every other provision necessary for them, till they should arrive at Teawa. Surf el Shekh is the boundary of Ras el Feel. Here Mr. Bruce took an affectionate leave of his friend Yatine, who, with all his attendants, shewed, at parting, that love and attachment they had constantly preserved to Mr. Bruce since their first acquaintance.

On the 20th, our travellers arrived at Imferha, from thence were two hours in going to Ras
this

d, for they were flying for their lives; the boom, or hot-wind, having struck them not long after they had set out from Imferrha; and their whole company, all but Mr. Bruce, fell sick with the quantity of poisonous vapour that they had inhaled. Our traveller supposes, that from Rashid to Imferrha it is about five miles; and though it is one of the most dangerous halting places between Ras el Feel and Sennaar, yet they were preserved, their stomachs so weak, and their headachs so violent, that they could not pitch their tent, but each wrapping himself in his cloak, resigned himself immediately to sleep, under the cool shade of the large trees.

In this helpless state to which they were reduced, Mr. Bruce alone continued not weakened by the simoom, nor overcome by sleep. A Gannak Arab, who drove an ass laden with salt, took this opportunity of stealing one of the mules, together with a lance and shield belonging to one of Mr. Bruce's servants. The country was so woody, and he had so much the advantage of them in point of time, and they were in so weak and discouraged a state, that it was thought in vain to pursue him one step.

Having refreshed themselves with a little sleep, the next thing was to fill their girbas, or skins, with water. But before they attempted this, Mr. Bruce thought to try an experiment of mixing about twenty drops of spirit of nitre in a horn of water, about the size of an ordinary tumbler. This he found greatly refreshed him, though his headach still continued. It had a much better effect upon his servants, to whom he gave it; for they all seemed immediately recovered, and their spirits much more so, from the reflection that they had with them a remedy they could trust

trust to, if they should again be so unfortunate as to meet the poisonous wind.

On the 2d, which was the seventh day since they had left Ras el Feel, they arrived at Teawa, the principal village and residence of the Shekh of Atbara, between three and four miles from the ruins of Gargana.

The strength of Teawa was about twenty-five horse, of which about ten were armed with coats of mail. They had about a dozen of firelocks, very contemptible, in the order in which they were kept, and from the hands that bore them. The inhabitants might amount to twelve men, naked, miserable, and despised, like the rest of those that live in villages, were much inferior in courage to the Arabs that dwell in tents: weak as its state was, it was without great government, and as such, a certain degree of reverence attended it. Such was the state of Teawa.

We may judge of the dangerous situation of Mr. Bruce at Teawa from what passed between him and Fidele, the shekh, who was a man of a most infamous character. Mr. Bruce being sent for by the shekh, he found him sitting in a spacious room, in an alcove, on a large broad sofa like a bed, with India curtains gathered on each side into festoons. He called to a black boy who attended him, in a very surly tone, to bring him a pipe; and, in much the same voice, said to Mr. Bruce, "What! alone?" Our traveller replied, "Yes; what are your commands with me?" Mr. Bruce saw he either was, or affected to be, drunk, and which ever was the case, he knew it would lead to mischief; he therefore repented heartily of having come into the house alone.

er he had taken two whiffs of his pipe, and
ave had left the room, "Are you prepared?
he: Have you brought the needful along
you?" Mr. Bruce wished to have occasion
Soliman, his servant, and answered, "My
its are at the outer door, and have the vo-
ou wanted." "I want money, and not poi-
id he in a rage. Where are your piaſtres?"
n a bad person, replied Mr. Bruce, to fur-
ou with either. I have neither money nor
; but I advise you to drink a little warm
to clear your ſtomach, cool your head, and
ie down and compoſe yourſelf; I will ſee
-morrow morning." Mr. Bruce was going
"Haikim, ſaid he, infidel, or devil, or
ver is your name, hearken to what I ſay.
der where you are; this is the room where
Baady, a king, was ſlain by the hand of my
: look at his blood, where it has ſtained
oor, which never could be waſhed out. I
formed you have twenty thouſand piaſtres
d with you; either give me two thouſand
: you go out of this chamber, or you ſhall
I will put you to death with my own hand."
this he took up his ſword, that was lying
head of his ſofa, and, drawing it with a
lo, threw the ſcabbard into the middle of
om; and, tucking the ſleeve of his ſhirt
his elbow like a butcher, ſaid, "I wait
nſwer."

Bruce now ſtept one pace backwards, and
he little blunderbuſs in his hand, without
g it off the belt. He ſaid, in a firm tone of
"This is my anſwer: I am not a man, as
told you before, to die like a beaſt by the
f a drunkard. On your life, I charge you,
ſir

fir not from your sofa." He he
this injunction; he heard the
clossing the joint in the stock
made, and thought he had cock
stantly to fire. He let his swor
himself on his back on the so
God's sake, Haikim, I was but
same time, with all his might, h
Mahomet! El coom! El coo
your servants approach me, sai
instant I will blow you to pi
them shall enter this room till
servants with them; I have a
armed at your gate, who will b
they hear me fire."

The women had come to th
Bruce's servants were admitte
blunderbuss in his hand, and pi
They were now greatly an ove
who sat far back on the sofa, a
all he had done was in joke, in
joined, and a very confused, d
followed, till the Turk, Sherrifi
ed to observe the shekh's scabi
thrown upon the floor, on whi
violent fit of laughter.

As no good could be expecte
tulation, Mr. Bruce stopt it, a
desiring the shekh to go to bed
self, and not try any more of t
which would certainly end in
in his punishment. He made
wished them good night.

Mr. Bruce and his servants
through the several apartment
their guard, for there was no

out, and they were afraid of some treachery or ambush in the antichamber and dark passages; but they met nobody; and were, even at the outer gate, obliged to open the door themselves. Without the gate there were about twenty people gathered together, but none of them with arms; and, by the half words and expressions they made use of, they could judge they were not the shekh's friends. They followed them for a little, but dispersed before they arrived at their house.

They had scarce got rid of this real danger, when the apprehension of an imaginary one struck them violently. The water at Teawa is stagnant in pools, and exceedingly bad. Either that, or the bouza, a kind of new beer which they sent them with their meat, had given all of them, at the same time, a violent diarrhœa, and Mr. Bruce was tormented with a perpetual thirst. When they found they were all taken ill at the same time, it came into their heads that Shekh Fidele had given them poison in their dinner, and they were very much perplexed what they should do the next day. None of them, therefore, tasted the meat sent them; when at night, their friend, the black slave, came, and to her they frankly told their doubts. The poor creature fell into such violent fits of laughing, which followed so close the one upon the other, and lasted so long, that Mr. Bruce feared she would have expired upon the spot. "It is the water, said she, it does so to all strangers;" and then she fell into another great fit of laughter. "Child, answered Mr. Bruce, you know the shekh is not our friend, and there is no easier way to get rid of us than by poison, as we eat every thing that comes from you without fear." "And so y

such thing as poison in Arborea; the
the knife in the field, that is the manner
they kill one another here."

They then shewed her their dinner
and she again fell into a violent fit of
and took the meat away that she might
and they heard her laughing all the while
by herself. She was not long in returning
provisions in plenty, and told them, that
treasures never were so diverted in their
she left them still laughing.

During the whole of Mr. Bruce's stay
the behaviour of Fidele was all of a kind
it is probable, our traveller would have
his travels in that place, had not his
powerful friends interested themselves in
security. However, after various inspections
the 18th, they took leave of the sheikhs
on their journey.

Their journey, for the first seven days
through a barren, bare, and God-forsaken

and particularly under the care of Providence, to have escaped the many snares the Shekh of Arbara had laid for them. Mahomet, the shekh, had provided every sort of refreshment possible for them, and, thinking they could not live without it, he had ordered sugar for them from Sennaar. Honey, for the most part, hitherto had been its substitute. They had a good comfortable supper; as fine wheat bread as ever Mr. Bruce ate in his life, brought from Sennaar, as also rice: in a word, every thing that their kind landlord could contribute to their plentiful and hospitable entertainment.

Our traveller's whole company was full of joy, to which the shekh greatly encouraged them; and if there was any alloy to the happiness, it was seeing that Mr. Bruce did not partake of it. Symptoms of an aguish disorder had been hanging about him for several days, ever since the diarrhœa had left him. He found the greatest repugnance, or nausea, at the smell of warm meat; and, having a violent headach, he insisted upon going to bed supperless, after having drank a quantity of warm water by way of emetic. Being exceedingly tired, he soon fell sound asleep, having first taken some drops of a strong spirituous tincture of the bark, which he had prepared at Gondar; resolving, if he found any remission, as he then did, to take several good doses of the bark in powder on the morrow, beginning at day-break, which he accordingly did with its usual success.

On the 20th of April, a little after the dawn of day, the shekh, in great anxiety, came to the place where Mr. Bruce was lying, upon a tanned buffalo's hide, on the ground. His sorrow w

all part of their fare, for the venison smelled
 filled strongly of musk. This was the provi-
 made by the shekh's two sons, boys about
 ten or fifteen years old, who had got each of
 a gun with a match-lock, and whose favour
 cured to a very high degree, by giving them
 good gunpowder, and plenty of small leaden
 balls.

In the afternoon they walked out to see the
 place, which is a very pleasant one, situated
 at the bottom of a hill, covered with wood. In
 the plain are many large timber trees, planted in
 rows, and joined with high hedges, as in Europe,
 forming inclosures for keeping cattle. There is
 no water at Beyla but what is got from deep wells.
 The plantations of Indian corn are every where
 about the town. The inhabitants are in continual
 apprehension from the Arabs Daveina at Sim Sim,
 about forty miles south-east from them; and
 from another powerful race, called Wed abd el
 i. e. Son of the slaves of the devil, who live
 to the south-west of them, between the Dender
 and the Nile. Beyla is another frontier town of
 Egypt, on the side of Sim Sim.

Though Mr. Bruce went early to bed with full
 expectation to set out by day-break, yet he
 found it was impossible to put his design in exe-
 cution, for he was not yet got from the hands of their kind land-
 lords. One of their girbas seemed to fail, and
 had to be repaired.

On the 21st of April, they left Beyla, at three
 o'clock in the afternoon, and proceeded through
 a very pleasant flat country, but without water;
 there had been none in their way nearer than the
 Bahad. About eleven at night they alighted

in a wood: the place is called Bah, they could compute, nine miles from

On the 22d, at half past five morning, they left Baherie, still onward, and at nine they came to the Rahad. The ford is called Tchir, the river itself was now standing in pools, foul, stinking, and covered with mud, the bottom soft and muddy, but of no choice. The water at Beyla was so shallow they took only as much as was necessary till they arrived at running water at Rahad.

On the 23d, they met several Arabs on back and on foot, coming out from the bushes, who endeavoured to carry off their camels. They indeed were some, and were going to prepare for the camel they had taken away had carried the and Shekh Adelan's presents, and other things for their future need. Their books, and papers, were upon the camel. However, as this was only a contrivance, a present from Mr. Bruce, the man got over, and the camel restored.

On the 24th, they came to the Rahad, standing now in pools; but by the extent of its banks, and the great depth of the water, it should seem, that in time of rain it would carry as much water as the Nile. The country was every where thick overgrown with the jujeb tree, especially the latter which had continued mostly from the Nile, failed entirely, and reached no farther than Sennaar. These two sorts of

n very great beauty, and of a prodigious

six o'clock in the evening, they set out from
y place of repose on the banks of the Den-
rough a large plain, with not a tree before

but they presently found themselves en-
closed with a number of villages, nearly of a
nd placed at equal distances in form of a
rle, the roofs of the houses in shape of
as are all those within the rains. The
was all of a red, soapy earth, and the corn
wn. This whole country is in perpetual
tion, and though, at this time, it had a bare
ould, no doubt, have a magnificent one
waving with grain. At nine, they halted
llage of Pagan Nuba. These are all sol-
of the Mek of Sennaar, cantoned in these
s, which, at the distance of four or five
surround the whole capital. Having set-
ts and provisions given them, as also arms
to their hands, they never with to desert,
e a very domestic and sober life.

y pay adoration to the moon; and that their
p is performed with pleasure and satisfac-
obvious every night that she shines. Com-
t from the darkness of their huts, they say a
ords upon seeing her brightness, and testify
oy, by motions of their feet and hands, at
it appearance of the new moon. Mr. Bruce
aw them pay any attention to the sun, either
or setting, advancing to or receding from
idian. Their priests seem to have great in-
over them, but through fear only, and not
fection. They are distinguished by thick
bracelets about their wrists, as also some-
te, and sometimes two about their ankles.



the water-spout. The plain was had been plentifully moistened by night-time. The unfortunate had been taken by the Cohala seemed the centre of its vortex. It was thrown down at a considerable distance, several of its ribs broken. Although Bruce could guess, he was not near, whirled him off his feet, and then upon his face, so as to make him black with blood. Two of the servants met the same fate. It plastered them with mud, almost as smoothly as could be done with a trowel. It took away his sight and breathing for an instant, and his nose were full of mud when he guessed the sphere of its action to be about a hundred feet. It demolished the hut, as if it had been cut through, and dispersed the materials all

they would all infallibly have been suffocated; they cautioned them, by saying, that tempests were very frequent at the beginning and end of the rainy season, and whenever they should see them coming, to fall down upon their faces; keeping their lips close to the ground, and waiting till it pass; and thus it would neither hurt nor carry them off their feet, nor suffocate them, which was the ordinary case.

Their kind landlords, the Nuba, gave them a very warm welcome, and helped them to wash their faces first, and then to dry them. When Mr. Bruce was stripped naked, they saw the blood run from his nose, and said, they could not have thought that one so white as he was could have been capable of bleeding. They gave them a piece of roasted hog, which they ate, very much to the satisfaction of the Nuba. On the other hand, as the camel was lame, they ordered one of the Nubetan servants to kill it, and take as much as would serve themselves for that night; and also provided against wanting themselves the next day. The rest they gave among their acquired acquaintance, the Nuba of the village, who did not fail to make a feast upon it for several days after; and, in recompence for their hospitality, they provided them with a large jar of oil. This Mr. Bruce repaid by tobacco, beads, and amber, and stibium, which he saw plainly was highly more than they expected. Mr. Bruce, in his life, upon a journey, passed a more comfortable night. He had a very neat, clean tent entirely to himself, and a Greek servant that attended him. Some of the Nuba watched for him all night, and took care of their beasts and baggage. They sung and replied to one another alternately.

alternately, in notes full of pleasant melody, Mr. Bruce fell fast asleep, involuntarily, and with regret.

The landlord of the hut where Mr. Bruce was asleep, having prepared for their safety and for their baggage, thought himself bound to go and give immediate information to the prime minister of the unexpected guests that occupied his house. He found Adelan at the door, but was immediately admitted, and a variety of questions asked him, which he answered readily. He described their colour, their number, their usual size and number of their firearms, the neatness of their attire, and, above all, their cheerfulness, quietness, and affability, that they were contented with eating any thing, and in particular mentioned the hog's flesh. One man there, testifying abhorrence to this, Adelan said to Mr. Bruce to their landlord, "Why, he is a Kafir, and a Kafr, like yourself. A soldier and a soldier when travelling in a strange country, does every thing, and so does every other man. He has a wife; has he not a servant of mine with him?" answered, "Yes, and a servant of the king's. He had left them, and was gone forward to Raiboch naar." "Go you with them," says he, "and show them to Raiboch till he had time to send for them to town." He had returned from Raiboch long before our travellers arose, and took part in the conversation, which was great comfort to them all; for they were not much displeased with the king's servant going before, as they had reason to think he was disaffected towards them.

On the 26th, at six o'clock in the evening, we set out from this village of Nubia, and there were terrible storms

ghtning, with some heavy rain. Mr. Bruce
he never, in his life, felt so cold a rain,
was not disagreeable; for the day was close
ot, and they should have wished every now
en to have had a moderate refrigeration;
however, was rather too abundant. At nine
k they arrived at Basboch, which is a large
tion of huts of the Nuba, and has the ap-
ce of a town.

governor, a venerable old man of about
y, who was so feeble that he could scarcely
received them with great complacency, only
, when he took hold of Mr. Bruce's hand, "O
ian! what dost thou, at such a time in such
try?" Mr. Bruce was surprised at the po-
s of his speech, when he called him Naza-
the civil term for Christian in the east;
as, Infidel, is the general term among these
o people; but it seems he had been several
at Cairo. Mr. Bruce had here a very clean
mfortable hut to lodge in, though they were
gly supplied with provisions all the time
ere there; but never were suffered to fast a
day together.

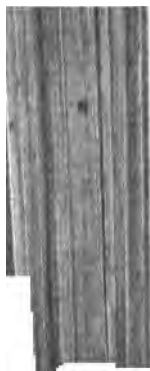
boch is on the eastern bank of the Nile,
quarter of a mile from the ford below. The
ere runs north and south; towards the
t is shallow, but deep in the middle of the
t, and in this part it is much infested with
iles. Sennaar is two miles and a half
south-west of it. They heard the evening
very distinctly, and not without anxiety,
they reflected to what a brutish people, ac-
g to all accounts they were about to trust
lycs,

On the 29th, leave was sent them, to en Sennaar, where having arrived, they were conducted by Adelan's servant to a very spacious good house belonging to the shekh himself long quarter of a mile from the king's palace. He left a message for them to repose themselves and in a day or two to wait upon the king, that he should send to tell them when they were to come to him. This they resolved to have complied with most exactly; but the very next morning the 30th of April, there came a servant from the palace to summon them to wait upon the king, which they immediately obeyed. The palace covers a prodigious deal of ground. It is all one story, built of clay, and the floors of earthenware. The chambers through which they passed were all unfurnished, and seemed as if a great number of them had formerly been destined as barracks for soldiers, of whom Mr. Bruce did not see above fifty on guard. The king was in a small room not twelve feet square, to which they ascended by two flights of narrow steps. The floor of the room was covered with broad square tiles; over it was laid a Persian carpet, and the walls hung with tapestry of the same country; the whole very well kept, and in good order.

The king was sitting upon a mattress, laid on the ground, which was likewise covered with a Persian carpet, and round him was a number of cushions of Venetian cloth of gold. His dress did not correspond with this magnificence, for he wore nothing but a large, loose shirt, of Surat blue cloth, which seemed not to differ from the common dress of his servants, except that, all round the neck of it, the seams were double-stitched with silk, and likewise round the

His head was uncovered; he wore his own short black hair, and was as white in colour as an Arab. He seemed to be a man about thirty-four; he had a very plebeian countenance, on which was stamped no decided character. At our traveller's coming forward and kissing his hand, he looked at them for a minute, as if undetermined what to say. He then asked for an Abyssinian interpreter, as there are many of those about the palace. Our traveller said to him in Arabic, "I apprehend I understand as much of that language as will enable me to answer any question you have to put to me." Upon which he turned to the people that were with him, "Downright Arabic, indeed! You did not learn that language in Habesh?" said he to Mr. Bruce, who answered, "No; I have been in Egypt, Turkey, and Arabia, where I learned it; but I have likewise often spoken it in Abyssinia, where Greek, Turkish, and several other languages are used." He said, "Impossible! he did not think they knew any language, except their own, in Abyssinia."

There were sitting opposite to him, four men dressed in white cotton shirts, with a white shawl covering their heads, and part of their face, by which it was known they were religious men, or men of learning, or of the law. One of these answered the king's doubt of the Abyssinians knowledge in languages. "They have languages enough, and you know that Habesh is called the Paradise of Asses." During this conversation, Mr. Bruce took the sheriffe of Mecca's letter, also one from the king of Abyssinia; he gave him the king's first, and then the sheriffe's. He took them both as Mr. Bruce gave them, but laid aside the king's upon a cushion



But it was pure confusion and able
for he never spoke a word to him w
"You are a physician and a foldier,"
"Both, in time of need," said Mr. B
the sheriffe's letter tells me also, th
nobleman in the service of a grea
they call Englife-man, who is maste
Indies, and who has Mahometan as v
tian subjects, and allows them all to
by their own laws."—"Though I
to the sheriffe," replied Mr. Bruce
true; I am as noble as any individu
tion, and am also servant to the great
reigning upon earth, of whose don
likewise truly said these Indies are
part."—"How comes it," says the
that are so noble and learned, that y
things, all languages, and so brave
no danger, but pass, with two or th
into such countries as this and H

nounce the world, its riches and pleasures. True, these are Dervish," said some that were present. "I am then one of these Dervish," said Mr. Bruce, "content with the bread that is given me, and bound for some years to travel in hardships and danger, doing all the good I can to poor and rich, serving every man, and hurting none." "Tybe! that is well," said the king. "And how long have you been travelling about?" added one of the others. "Near twenty years," said Mr. Bruce.—"You must be very young," says the king, "to have committed so many sins, and so early; they must all have been with women?"—"Part of them, I suppose, were" replied Mr. Bruce, "but I did not say I was one of those that travelled on account of their sins, but that there were some Dervishes that did so on account of their vows, and some to learn wisdom." Mr. Bruce now withdrew.

The drum beat a little after six o'clock in the evening. They then had a very comfortable dinner sent them, camel's flesh stewed with an herb, a viscous slimy substance, called Bammia. About eight o'clock came a servant from the palace, telling Mr. Bruce, now was the time to bring the present to the king. He sorted the separate articles with all the speed he could, and they went directly to the palace. The king was then sitting in a large apartment, as far as he could guess, at some distance from the former. He was naked, but had several clothes lying upon his knee, and about him, and a servant was rubbing him over with very stinking butter, or grease, with which his hair was dropping as if wet with water. The king asked Mr. Bruce if ever he
greased

presence, which is a pledge that your person is in safety. The king thereupon withdrew, and went to his ladies.

It was not till the 8th of May Mr. Bruce had an audience of Shekh Adelan at Aira, which is five miles and an half from Sennaar; they started out early in the morning, for the greatest part of the way along the side of the Nile, which has no beauty, being totally divested of trees, the bottom foul and muddy, and the edges of water white, with small concretions of calca-earth, which, with the bright sun upon it, dazzled and affected their eyes very much. They then struck across a large sandy plain, without trees or bushes, and came to Adelan's station.

Within the gate was a number of horses, with their officers barracks behind them; they were all lined up in ranks, their faces to their master's tents. It was one of the finest sights Mr. Bruce ever saw of the kind. They were all above a hand high, of the breed of the old Sennar horses, all finely made, and as strong as such horses, but exceedingly nimble in motion; they were mostly black, some of black and white, some of them milk-white, so not white by age, with white eyes and hoofs.

Each man had a shirt of mail hung upon each man's back opposite to his horse, and by it an ante-kin, made soft like shamoy, with which it was covered from the dew of the night. A head-piece of copper, without crest or plumage, was added by a lace above the shirt of mail, and the most picturesque part of the trophy was added, an enormous broad sword.

L. XIV.

in a red leather scabbard; and
hung two thick gloves. That
that, within that inclosure
four hundred horses, which
armour complete for each
property of Shekh Adelan,
his slave, and bought with

Adelan was then sitting
trunk of a palm-tree, in the
divisions of his horses, while
contemplating with pleasure
people, his own servants and
ing round him. He had on
ed camlet gown, lined with
a camlet cap, like a head piece
points that covered his ears.
his dress, when he rose early
visit his horses, which he ne
shekh was above six feet high
had a heavy walk, seeming
tion of grandeur, than want
about sixty, of the colour
Arab, and not of a negro, but
beard than falls to the lot of
try; large piercing eyes,
though, at the same time, a
tenance. Upon Mr. Bruce
he got up, "You that are
without any salutation, what
Habesh give for these horses
answered Mr. Bruce in the
give any price for such horses
value?"

They then went into a
and with mirrors and
longest sides were

h crimson and yellow damask, and large cuffs of cloth of gold, like to the king's. He now led off his camlet gown and cap, and remained in a crimson satin coat, reaching down below his knees, which lapped over at the breast, and was girt round his waist with a scarf, or sash, in which he had stuck a short dagger; in an ivory scabbard, mounted with gold; and one of the largest and most beautiful amethysts upon his finger. It was Mr. Bruce ever saw, mounted plain, without any diamonds, and a small gold ear-ring in one of his ears.

After some general conversation, in which Ismael gave a very unfavourable account of the state of the country, Mr. Bruce gave him the English letter, which he opened, looked at, and read by without reading, saying only, "Aye, Ismael is a good man, he sometimes takes care of our people going to Mecca; for my part, I never was there, and probably never shall." Mr. Bruce then presented his letter from Ali Bey to Ismael. He placed it upon his knee, and gave a kiss upon it with his open hand. "What! do you not know, said he, that Mahomet Abou Dabb, his Hasmadar, has rebelled against him, banished him out of Cairo, and now sits in his place? But don't be disconcerted at that, I know Ismael to be a man of honour and prudence; if Mahomet, my brother, does not come, as soon as he can get leisure, I will dispatch you." The servant that had conducted Mr. Bruce to Sennaar, who was then with him, went forward close to Ismael, and said, in a kind of whisper, "Should he go often to the king?"—"When he pleases; he may go to see the town, and take a walk, but never alone, and also to the palace, that, when

ably, both of him and his
for Metical Aga's letters, o
ceived concerning him from
he had only shewn Metical's
name of the theriffe, as all
that there were several great
ment present; and the Cadi
aloud to them all: that one
how it came that such a man
ventured to pass these desert
old servants, and what it
that he answered, he appreh
ject at Sennaar was, to be in
country. It was also asked,
not some Englishmen with
servants were of that nation
Kopts, Arabs, and Turks,
them of his religion. Belal
vellers through these countries
with such people as they came
way; however, he believed
servants had died in Abyssinia
had left the first opportunity
being wearied by the perpetua
vailed. Upon which the Cadi
chosen well, when he came to
peace. You know, Hagi B
for him; there is nothing more
easier get him back into Abyss
into Egypt. Who is it?
The Cadi then said to
Quakem, and so to
which Belal replied
way when he th
a few days after this, he
from the palace. He

alone, apparently much chagrined, and in ill-humour. He asked him, in a very peevish manner, if he was not yet gone? To which he answered, "Your majesty knows that it is impossible for me to go a step from Sennaar, without assistance from you." He again asked him, in the same tone as before, "how he could think of coming that way?" He said, nobody imagined in Abyssinia, but that he was able to give a stranger safe conduct through his own dominions. He made no reply, but nodded a sign for him to depart, which he immediately did, and so finished this short, but disagreeable interview.

About four o'clock that same afternoon, Mr. Bruce was again sent for to the palace, when the king told him, that several of his wives were ill, and desired that he would give them his advice, which he promised to do without difficulty, as all acquaintance with the fair sex had hitherto been much to his advantage. He was admitted into a large square apartment, very ill-lighted, in which were about fifty women, all perfectly black, without any covering but a very narrow piece of cotton rag about their waists. While he was musing whether or not these all might be queens, or whether there was any queen among them, one of them took him by the hand, and led him rudely enough into another apartment. This was much better lighted than the first. Upon a large bench or sofa, covered with blue Sarat cloth, sat three persons, clothed from the head to the feet with blue cotton shirts.

One of these, who it seems was the favourite, was about six feet high, and corpulent beyond all proportion. She seemed to him, next to the elephant and rhinoceros, to be the largest living
creat

better sort of people. Their floors are covered with Persian carpets, especially the women's apartments. In fair weather, they wear sandals; without doors they use a kind of wooden ten, very neatly ornamented with shells. In greatest heat, at noon, they order buckets of water to be thrown upon them instead of bathing.

Both men and women anoint themselves, at least once a day, with camels grease mixed with civet, which they imagine softens their skin, preserves them from cutaneous eruptions, of which they are so fearful, that the smallest pimple in any visible part of their body keeps them in the house till it disappears. For the same reason, though they have a clean shirt every day, they use one dipped in grease to sleep in, as they have no covering but this, and lie upon a bull's hide, tanned, and very much softened by this constant greasing, and at the same time very cool, though it occasions a smell that no washing can remove from them.

The poorer sort live upon millet, made into bread or flour. The rich make a pudding of this, stirring the flour before the fire, and pouring milk and butter into it; besides which, they eat much of corn, partly roasted and partly raw. Their horned cattle are the largest and fattest in the world, and are exceedingly fine; but the common meat in the market is camels flesh. The liver of this animal, and the spare rib, are always eaten throughout the whole country. Mr. Bruce never saw one instance where it was dressed with spices.

It is not then true, that eating raw flesh is peculiar to Abyssinia; it is practised in the south of camels flesh in all the black countries. Hogs flesh is not sold in the

...it was very late
...none of the hour
...a Greek, who, on account
...eyes, had staid below in the
...asleep, came running up
...and told them, he had been
...of men endeavouring to force
...that he hearkened a little, and
...any of them. Their arms were all
...atched them. Bruce stooped up and ran towards
...ding place in the staircase, as he
...re till the enemy was fairly in the
...excuse might remain for this their
...hospitallity. By this time, the assault
...ed the outer gate, and were then in
...deavouring to do the same by the inner
...at a handspike under it to lift it up from
...s. "Are you not madmen, said Ma
...d weary of your lives, to attempt to
...lan's house, when there are within it
...ndantly provided with large stones
...one discharge through the roof
...dead where you now stand
...or, cries I fear I
...don't
...had

one of Mr. Bruce's servants fired a pistol in the air out of an upper window, upon which they all ran off. They seemed to be about ten or twelve in number, and left three handspikes behind them. The noise of the pistol brought the guard, or patrol, in about half an hour, who carried intelligence to the Sid el Coom, our traveller's friend, by whom he was informed, in the morning, that he had found them all out, and put them in irons; that Mahomet, the king's servant, who met them at Teawa, was one of them; and that there was no possibility now of concealing this from Adelan, who would order him to be impaled.

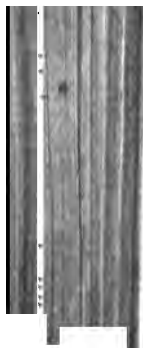
Things were now come to such a crisis, that Mr. Bruce was determined to leave his instruments and papers with Kittou, Adelan's brother, or with the Sid el Coom, while he went to Shaddly to see Adelan. But first he thought it necessary to apply to Hagi Belal, to try what funds they could raise to provide the necessaries for their journey. Mr. Bruce shewed him the letter of Ibrahim, the English broker of Jidda, of which before he had received a copy and repeated advices, and told him he should want two hundred sequins at least, for his camels and provisions, as well as for some presents that he should have occasion for, to make his way to the great men in Atbara. Never was surprise better counterfeited than by this man. He held up his hands in the utmost astonishment, repeating, two hundred sequins! or twenty times, and asked Mr. Bruce if he thought money grew upon the trees at Sennaar; and with the utmost difficulty, he could give him twenty dollars, part of which he received from a friend.

This was a stroke that seemed to insure Mr. Bruce's destruction, no other resources being now left. They were already indebted to Hagi Belal twenty dollars for provision; they had seven mouths to feed daily; and as they had neither money, nor credit, to continue at Sennaar was impossible. They had seen, a few nights before, that no house could protect them there; and leave Sennaar was, in their situation, as impossible as to stay there. They had neither camels to carry their provisions and baggage, nor skins for their water; nor, indeed, any provisions to carry, nor money to supply them with any of these, nor knew any person that could give them assistance nearer than Cairo, from which they were then distant about seventeen degrees of the meridian, or above one thousand miles in a straight line; great part of which was through the most barren, inhospitable deserts in the world, destitute of all vegetation, and of every animal that afforded the breath of life. Hagi Belal was inflexible; he began now to be weary of our travellers, to receive them but seldom, and there was great appearance of his soon withdrawing himself entirely. Mr. Bruce's servants began to murmur: some of them had known of his gold chain from the beginning, and these, in the common danger, imparted what they knew to the rest. In short, he resolved, though very unwillingly, not to sacrifice his own life, and that of his servants, and to finish his travels, now so far advanced, to avoid childish vanity. He determined, therefore, to redeem his gold chain, the honourable recompense of a day full of fatigue and danger. Whom to trust it to was the next consideration; and, on a mature deliberation, he found it could be

sent for the Sid el
repeated his ac
the seraff's lette
letters that Belal
at Gondar, decl
to furnish him
arrive at Sennaar; and he
strongest terms with duplici
that he could say was ver
expostulation from the
followed. He gave Hag
hints, that he would re
ad himself, and looked u
ad done this to please
not be far off when that
little use to him; on
reason for the stripping him
The force of these
Hagi Belal's imagin
even offered to advance
if he could raise a
The Gindi, a rare
to lend him fifty
the chain had been
become exceedingly
quantity of gold in
therefore consent
presence of the G
about the purcha
that if Adela
did furni

displeased that I did not fire at them, and has sent to the Gindi, ordering him to deliver two of them to him to-morrow to be executed publicly before the door of his house on the market-day. But this, you know, is among yourselves. I am very well pleased none of them are dead, as they might have been, by my hands or those of my people." K. "True; but Adelan is not king, and I charge you when you see him to ask for Mahomet's life, or a considerable deal of blame will fall upon you. When you return back, I will send him to conduct you to the frontiers of Egypt." Upon this Mr. Bruce bowed, and took his leave. He went home perfectly determined what he was to do. He had now obtained from the king an involuntary safeguard till he should arrive at Adelan's; that is, he was sure that, in hopes Mr. Bruce might procure a reprieve for Mahomet, no trap would be laid for him on the road. He determined therefore to make the best use of his time; and every thing being ready, they loaded the camels, and sent them forward that night to a small village called Soliman, three or four miles from Sennaar; and having settled his accounts with Hagi Belal, he received back six links, the miserable remains of one hundred and eighty-four, of which his noble chain once consisted.

This traitor kept him the few last minutes to write a letter to the English at Jidda, to recommend him for the service he had done Mr. Bruce at Sennaar; and this he complied with, that he might inform the broker Ibrahim that he had received no money from his correspondent, and give him a caution never again to trust Hagi Belal in similar circumstances.



on Sittina, who received him behind
that it was impossible either to see
face; he observed, however, that the
apertures so managed in the screen
a perfect view of him. She expressed
with great politeness, talked much up
in which Adelan was with the king,
ed exceedingly how a white man like
venture so far in such an ill-governed
“ Allow me, Madam, said Mr. Brown,
plain of a breach of hospitality in your
Arab has been yet guilty towards me
she, that would be strange indeed, that
bears my brother's letter. How can
“ Why, you tell me, Madam, that
man, by which I know that you see
giving me the like advantage. The queen
naar did not use me so hardly; I have
of them without having used any ill
On this she broke out into a great fit

in an oven. Their eyes were dim, their lips cracked, their knees tottering, their throats perfectly dry, and no relief was found from drinking an immoderate quantity of water. The people advised Mr. Bruce to dip a sponge in vinegar and water, and hold it before his mouth and nose; this greatly relieved him. In the evening he went to Sittina. Upon entering the house, a black slave laid hold of him by the hand, and conducted him in a passage, at the end of which were two opposite doors. Mr. Bruce did not know the reason of this; but it lasted only a few minutes, when he heard one of the doors at the end of the passage open, and Sittina appeared magnificently dressed, with a kind of coronet of solid gold upon the crown of her head, which was very thin, and hung round with sequins and a variety of gold chains, solitaires, and pendants of the same metal, about her neck. Her hair was plaited in ten or twelve small divisions like tails, which hung down below her waist, and over her was thrown a common coarse white garment. She had a purple silk shawl or scarf, hung very gracefully upon her back, brought again round her waist, without covering her shoulders or arms. Upon her wrists she had two bracelets like handcuffs, about half an inch thick, and two gold manacles of the same at her elbows, fully an inch diameter, the most disagreeable and awkward part of her dress. Mr. Bruce expected she would have hurried through with an affectation of surprise. On the contrary, she stood in the middle of the passage, saying, in a very grave manner, "Kishalec—how are you?" Bruce thought this was an opportunity of taking her hand, which he did without her in the least sort of reluctance. "Allow me, as

and I will
and carried
of the passage
nished in at a
as the screen
lady fitting be
was a woman
ldle size, had
ath rather larg
d eyes he ha
and between
made of coh
f the size o
to wear; a
her nose, a

lively dis
er and
ou woul
t is, M
erday.
is you

any thing, send by a servant of mine I know improperly laid upon a man ask for every necessary, but Idris will and he will provide you better." Upon this conversation, and soon afterwards Towah had so well followed of the Mek of Sennaar, as to take all our guides of note with him, on purpose Mr. Bruce.

Chendi is in lat. 16 deg. 38 min. and 33 deg. 24 min. 45 sec. east of Greenwich.

On the 20th of October, in the morning we left Chendi, and rested two miles from it, and, on the 9th of November, having the assurances possible from Idris whom Mr. Bruce had engaged at Chendi, that he would live and die with them, after repeated the prayer of peace, they pursued their journey with countenance possible, and committed themselves to the care of Idris.

the 14th, they were at once surprised and
ed by a sight surely one of the most magni-
in the world. In that vast expanse of de-
rom west and to north-west of them, they
number of prodigious pillars of sand at dif-
distances, at times moving with great cele-
at others stalking on with a majestic flow-
at intervals they thought they were coming
ery few minutes to overwhelm them; and
quantities of sand did actually more than
each them. Again they would retreat so
e almost out of sight, their tops reaching to
ry clouds. There the tops often separated
the bodies; and these, once disjoined, dis-
in the air, and did not appear more. Some-
they were broken near the middle, as if
with a large cannon shot. About noon
egan to advance with considerable swift-
pon them, the wind being very strong at

Eleven of them ranged along-side of
about the distance of three miles. The
st diameter of the largest appeared to Mr.
at that distance about ten feet. They re-
from them with a wind at south-east, leav-
a impression upon our traveller's mind to
he can give no name, though surely one in-
nt in it was fear, with a considerable deal
der and astonishment. It was in vain to
of flying; the swiftest horse, or fastest sail-
ip, could be of no use to carry them out of
nger, and the full persuasion of this rivet-
m as if to the spot where he stood, and he
camels gain on him so much in his state
eness, that it was with some difficulty he
overtake them.

on this day, subordination, though not ceased, was fast on the decline; all was tent, murmuring, and fear. Their water greatly diminished, and that terrible death-rift began to stare them in the face, and was owing in a great measure to their own dence. Ishmael, who had been left sentinelling the skins of water, had slept so soundly, his had given an opportunity to a Taborary in one of the skins that had not been touched to serve himself out of it at his own discre-

Mr. Bruce supposes, that, hearing some-
 or, and fearing detection, he had withdrawn
 as speedily as possible, without taking
 to tie the mouth of the girba, which they
 in the morning with scarce a quart of wa-
 it.

The phenomenon of the simoom, unexpected
 them, though foreseen by Idris, caused them
 relapse into the greatest despondency. It
 continued to blow, so as to exhaust them en-
 though the blast was so weak as scarcely
 to have raised a leaf from the ground. At
 twenty minutes before five the simoom ceased,
 a comfortable and cooling breeze came by
 from the north, blowing five or six minutes
 time, and then falling calm.

That desert, which did not afford inhabitants
 no assistance or relief of travellers, had great-
 er than sufficient for destroying them. Large
 numbers of Arabs, two or three thousand, encamp-
 together, were cantoned, as it were, in differ-
 ent places of this desert, where there was water
 to serve their numerous herds of cattle,
 so, as their occasion required, traversed in
 that wide expanse of solitude, from
 the

mountains near the Red Sea, east, to the banks of the Nile on the west, according as their several designs or necessities required. These were Jahelcen Arabs, those cruel, barbarous factions, that deliberately shed so much blood during the time they were establishing the Mahometan religion. If it had been their lot to fall among these people, and it was next to a certainty that they were at that very instant surrounded by them, death was certain, and their only comfort was, that they could die but once; and that to die like men was in their own option. Indeed, without considering the bloody character which these wretches naturally bear, there could be no reason for letting them live: they could be of no use to them as slaves; and to have sent them to Egypt, after having first rifled and destroyed their goods, could not be done by them but at a great expence, to which well-inclined people could not have been induced from charity, and of that last virtue they had not even heard the name. Their only chance then remaining was, that their number might be so small, that, by our travellers' great superiority in firearms and courage, they might turn the misfortune upon the aggressors, deprive them of their camels and means of carrying water, and leave them, scattered in the desert, to that death which either of them, without alternative, must suffer. However, they were lucky enough not to meet with any of those barbarians.

On the 22d, their camels were reduced to five, and it did not seem that these were capable of continuing their journey much longer. In that case, no remedy remained but that each man should carry his own water and provisions. Now

as no one man could carry
use between well and well,
bable that distance would be
the wells being found dry;
the case, yet, as it was im-
carry his provisions who cou-
any burden at all, their sit-
most desperate.


On the 27th, at half past
they attempted to raise their
thod that they could devise,
one of them could get upon
did not stand two minutes t
and could never be raised af-
they turned themselves, deat
the face. They had neither
waste, nor provisions to suppe
took the small skins that had
and filled them as far as they
carry them with ease; but afte
was not enough to serve them
he had estimated their journe
however, was uncertain. If
could not rise, they
in much flesh as

head, and, from t
got about four g
ins of their mil
dirty water, the
lived on amidst th
spirits likewise were
ainty of their journey's
among those terril
of nature which
the weakness of his creat
their fight in desec

Allouan, and a quarter before ten arrived in a grove of palm trees on the north of that city.

They were not long arrived, before they received from the Aga about fifty loaves of fine wheat bread, and several large dishes of dressed meat. But the smell of these last no sooner reached Mr. Bruce than he fainted upon the floor. He made several trials afterwards, with no better success, for the first two days, nor could he reconcile himself to any sort of food but toasted bread and coffee. His servants had none of these qualms, for they partook largely and greedily of the Aga's bounty.

Mr. Bruce was obliged to keep his room five or six days after his arrival; but, as soon as got better, he and his servants set out on dromedaries, in order to recover his baggage. The Aga had sent four servants belonging to his stables to accompany them: active, lively, and good-humoured



January, 1773. The occurrences which presented themselves to our traveller, are common and might be expected. of wonders, of novelty, and of danger and he declines enlarging on circumstances of trivial consequence. After some time Mr. Bruce proceeded to Alexandria thence he happily reached Marseille finishes the history of his long-conti





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